



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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Four get double life sentence for killing Soumya Vishwanathan
A Delhi court on Saturday handed double rigorous life imprisonment to four members of a crime syndicate for killing TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan in 2008. The court sentenced Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik and Ajay Kumar under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC and U/s 3 (1) (1) of The Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act.

Karnataka Government. Guarantee Government.



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Women & Child Development

Gruha Lakshmi

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ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ ಪತ್ರ

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ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: GL002S231428843

TRANSLATION
Sanction Letter

The application for Gruhalakshmi scheme, dated 26/07/2023, by Smt. Shanthamma (Ration card number 160300131993) is hereby approved.

The amount sanctioned under Gruhalakshmi scheme will be transferred to the bank account linked to your Aadhaar card. This is computer generated document and does not require signature. The authenticity of this document can be verified by scanning the QR Code below.

Sanction Order Number: GL002S231428843



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actual beneficiary
in October 2023



Gruhalakshmi is a blessing for homemakers like me. With rising prices, I was struggling to meet my household expenses. I am able to manage it comfortably now with Rs 2000 deposited into my account every month under the Gruhalakshmi scheme of the Karnataka government led by **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah**.

Shanthamma, Homemaker



For every small expense, I had to ask my husband for money. I don't have to do that anymore, thanks to Karnataka government and Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah** for the Gruhalakshmi scheme. The Rs 2000 deposited into my account every month gives me so much comfort and confidence.

Roopa Hiremath, Homemaker

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1
Crore
women's
accounts



Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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**Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri Siddaramaiah**



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Sri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Smt. Lakshmi R. Hebbalkar, Hon'ble Minister for Women & Child Welfare, Disabled and Senior Citizens Empowerment. Participated in the Gruha Lakshmi scheme inauguration ceremony.

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State level Janaspandana

By Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri Siddaramaiah



9:30 am Onwards

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Note: Citizens who wish to submit a petition at Janaspandana are requested to mandatorily bring Aadhaar card or Ration card.

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CMofKarnataka <https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/>

karnataka information

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Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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74% VOTER TURNOUT IN RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS TILL 6 PM

Rajasthan witnessed brisk polling on Saturday. Voters exercised their mandate peacefully, though there were stray incidents of violence

HIGHEST POLLING IN JAISALMER DISTRICT

At 6 pm, the tentative turnout was 74%, the matching the polling data in the last assembly polls in 2018. The Election Commission expects 75% polling this time around. The highest polling was in Jaisalmer district, followed by Hanumangarh and Dholpur districts. Polling in one seat was postponed due to the death of the Congress candidate

STRAY VIOLENCE REPORTED IN A FEW AREAS

■ In Sanwler village of Kaman in Deeg district, two persons, including a policeman, were injured in stone pelting. "Police fired 12 rounds in the air to disperse the crowd," Deeg SP Brijesh Upadhyay said
■ Sikar's Fatehpur witnessed a group clash. There was stone pelting outside a booth. One jawan was injured in the incident | P10

1,862

CANDIDATES IN THE FRAY IN THE RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLAM • TADEPALLI GUDDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURAGI

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Now, CBI goes after Moitra, begins probe

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WEEKS after the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha recommended the expulsion of Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra from Parliament, the CBI registered a preliminary enquiry on the cash-for-query charges against her, sources said. The CBI began its investigations following directions from anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal, said officials.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey had approached the Lokpal on October 21 with a complaint against Moitra over allegations

of accepting bribes to raise questions in Parliament.

In her pushback, Moitra wrote on X, "Neither has Lok Pal uploaded any referral order on the website as per Lokpal Act and nor has CBI put out anything official. "Sources" telling journo as per usual media circus. Hope ₹13,000 crore Adani coal scam merits CBI PE before my witch hunt."

The CBI's enquiry is the first step to ascertain if the allegations merit a full-fledged probe.

4 die in Cochin University music fest stampede

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

AN evening of music and merriment at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) turned tragic on Saturday after a stampede left four persons, including three students, dead and another 49 injured.

The tragedy occurred as a large number of students who tried to enter the amphitheatre—the venue of the concert—were caught in a crush when the gate was suddenly opened.

The deceased have been identified as Sara Thomas, Athul Thampi, Aan Ruffha, and Alwin Joseph. While three were second-year en-

gineering students of Cusat, Alwin had arrived to attend the musical event. The Nikhita Gandhi concert—part of the annual Tech-Fest by Cusat's School of Engineering (SoE)—was scheduled to begin at 7.30 pm, but the audience started filing in as early as 5 pm. The accident occurred around 6.55 pm. "The venue was partially filled, but students were crowding the gate, located some 10-15 feet

above the amphitheatre. When the gate suddenly got opened, students and other attendees fell over each other, leading to the tragedy," said M R Ajith Kumar, additional director general of police, law & order. "This is a freak accident," he said, adding, "the flash rain may have forced the concertgoers to run for cover and push force open the gate, leading to the accident." However, an eyewitness

said there was no rain at the time, which is corroborated by TNIE reporters who were on the spot. "It was just a drizzle. Students would enjoy such drizzle," said a Cusat professor, on condition of anonymity. He blamed the authorities and SoE students for lack of proper planning. "The Cusat campus does not have the capacity to handle these kind of big events where outsiders are also involved," he said. Cusat vice-chancellor P G Sankaran said police were informed about the event. "We had notified the police about the event. But, due to the ISL match, we were told that the police were busy," he said.

TWO MINISTERS RUSHED TO THE SCENE

During an emergency cabinet meeting on Saturday night, it was decided to rush industries minister P Rajeev and higher education minister R Bindu to Kalamassery to coordinate various relief measures. Health minister Veena George has been tasked with ensuring that all the injured gets proper care

Vertical wait for end of horizontal option

Auger machine destroyed; manual drilling is an option

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

WITH the stubborn rubble of an under-construction tunnel in Uttarkashi knocking an auger machine out of action, rescuers of 41 labourers stuck on the other side of the debris oscillated between expediting vertical drilling and exploring manual horizontal drilling.

In the end, it was decided to exhaust all options for horizontal drilling before initiating the vertical one. "Only equipment for vertical drilling is being placed. Vertical drilling won't start till we exhaust the first option of 800 mm pipes," said Col Deepak Patil, head of the rescue operations.

The US auger machine managed to drill about 47 metres horizontally into the rubble in phases and insert 2.7 ft wide pipes into it before the blades of the drill head broke and got stuck in the debris on Friday. "Augering is finished... the auger is broken, destructed," international tunnelling expert Arnold Dix said in Silkyara.

The width of the rubble is estimated to be 60 metres.

Manual drilling involves send-



A vertical drilling machine near the under-construction Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi district on Saturday | P11

ing a worker into the 2.7 ft pipe, drilling briefly from within the confined space and exiting so that another labourer can take over. It can begin as soon as the stuck auger drill head is extracted.

A steel chute had been pushed through, in sections, up to the point where the rotary blades are stuck in the horizontal pipe, followed by the long auger. About 20 metres of the auger in the chute has been cut, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said.

"Vertical drilling is time consuming and complicated. It demands more exactitude and caution because of the narrow space on the tunnel roof," said Dix.

Phone

A landline is being provided near the tunnel so that families of the workers can talk to them. The workers are in a built-up 2 km stretch of the tunnel where there is electricity and water



HIGHER PERSPECTIVE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes a sortie aboard the Tejas aircraft in Bengaluru on Saturday | P11 | P7

BULLS PARTY

India in grip of mother of all IPO fevers

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

IN one of the busiest weeks for India's primary market, five initial public offerings (IPOs) attracted bids worth ₹2.6 lakh crore from investors. This is staggering given that they were seeking to raise a combined sum of only ₹7,380 crore from their initial share sale.

Market analysts noted that the IPOs are coming at fair valuations and investors and speculators are expecting listing day gains. Their belief is backed by the grey market premium of these shares. Fomo (fear of missing out) has also gripped the investors.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Fi-

INVESTOR FRENZY			
IPOs	Issue size	Bids received	No of times subscribed
IREDA	₹2,151 cr	₹59,000 cr	38.8
Tata Technologies	₹3,043 cr	₹1.57 lakh cr	69.4
Gandhar Oil	₹501 cr	₹22,600 cr	64.1
Flair Writing	₹593 cr	₹19,500 cr	46.7
Fedbank Financial Services	₹1,092 cr	₹2,012 cr	2.2

nancial Services, said investors piling on to new offerings is a reflection of the structural shift in the financialisation of savings in India.

"Impressive growth of India's GDP and good performance of the corporate sector and the secondary market is facilitating the growth of the primary market.

This momentum is likely to continue going forward," Vijayakumar said.

The IPO of Tata Technologies received bids worth ₹1.57 lakh crore against its issue size of ₹3,043 crore. It attracted about 73.6 lakh applications, the highest ever for any IPO in Indian primary market history.

Small IPOs

The IPOs of Flair Writing and Gandhar Oil were also in high demand among investors. The ₹593 crore IPO of Flair received bids for ₹19,550 crore the ₹501 crore IPO of Gandhar received bids for ₹22,640 crore

Unhone hum sabko Anand diya



Celebrating Dr. Kurien's 102nd birth anniversary

BELGAUM CANTT BOARD CEO DIES MYSTERIOUSLY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Executive Officer (CEO) of Belgaum Cantonment Board K Anand, 40, was found dead at his official residence at Camp, Belagavi, under mysterious circumstances on Saturday morning.

Four days ago, the CBI raided the Cantt office in connection with the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of board staff.

According to Belagavi Police Commissioner Sidramappa, it is suspected to be a suicide case. Police have recovered a bottle containing poison from Anand's bed where he was found dead. The commissioner said that a death note has also been recovered from the room. The recovered items will be sent to the forensic science laboratory (FSL) for tests.

CONTINUED ON: P7



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KAMBALA, THE RACE BEGINS!



The drum beats & the sound of trumpets echoed, as a large crowd gathered at Palace Grounds to witness Bengaluru's first ever Kambala event.
Pics by Nagaraja Gadekal

We will look into demands to make Tulu K'taka's second language: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

"I will look into the demand of the people from coastal Karnataka to make Tulu the state's second language," said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, lauding the efforts of the Bengaluru Kambala Samithi for bringing Kambala (buffalo race) to Bengaluru.

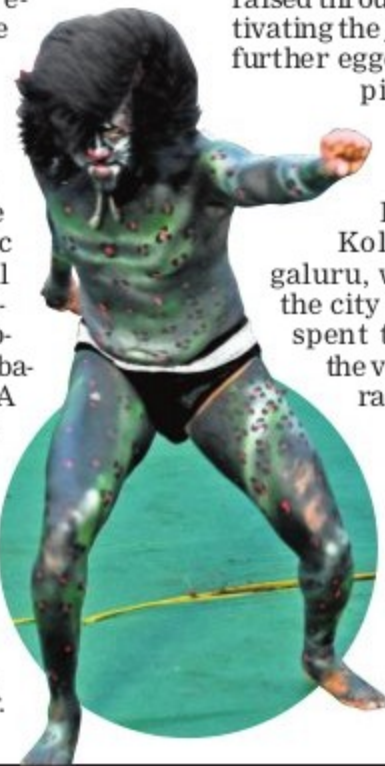
After inaugurating the event, Siddaramaiah took a dig at former Kannada and culture minister Sunil Kumar, who was from the coastal region, for not according the second language status to Tulu. "I will take a decision after discussing it with the present Kannada and culture minister," he added. The chief minister said he was apprehensive about holding Kambala in Bengaluru as it



is a sport from the coastal region. "But Bengaluru Kambala Samithi president Ashok Kumar Rai and others said Bengaluru is also home to lakhs of people hailing from coastal Karnataka, and they want to organise the event here. I am surprised to see such a huge

crowd. I appeal to the organisers to hold the event annually in November or December." He said there is a demand to ban Kambala and Jallikattu, but his government had supported the race in the past too. "Our government has announced Rs 1 crore for Kamba-

la, and will release Rs 5 lakh immediately." He said the government will allot a plot in Bengaluru as requested by the Samithi to hold cultural events. Speaker UTKhadre appealed to the CM to give recognition to Tulu. He reminded the public that when animal welfare organisations like PETA appealed to ban Kambala, Puttur MLA Ashok Rai fought in court. In the morning, the two-day event was inaugurated by former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar.



NAMRATA SINDWANI @Bengaluru

For the first time, the famous sport of coastal Karnataka region, 'Kambala' (buffalo race), was held in Bengaluru on Saturday. The beats of the drums and the sound of kahale (trumpet) echoed as citizens gathered in large numbers at Palace Grounds to get a glimpse of the buffaloes sprinting in muddy waters. Intermittent rain during the show, did not deter the jockeys, buffaloes or the spectators. While some opened their umbrellas, the others got drenched, but continued to cheer for the jockeys.

The charm of coastal Karnataka's culture, be it the Pili Veshha (folk dance with tiger masks), yakshagana, hand-craft metal artefacts or 150-food stalls selling delicacies like neer dosa with chicken sukka, anjal tawa (fish), kori roti with Mangalore chicken curry or chicken pulimunchi, transported citizens to Tulu land. As they danced to the drum beats, and enjoyed a variety of dishes, it was a perfect family outing.

'Namma Kambala', 'Bengaluru Kambala' slogans were raised throughout the day, motivating the jockeys, who were further egged on by the clapping and whistling of spectators.

Indranil Pal and his wife Deepa M, from Kolkata and Mangaluru, who have been in the city for over 12 years, spent the entire day at the venue, enjoying the race.

Indranil, who witnessed it for the first time, said, "It is very entertaining to watch." His wife, hailing from an agricultural family, said, "It is nice



to see our culture here in Bengaluru. We used to see Kambala when we were young. But now with work, I don't get much time to go back home to see Kambala." Veena Suryanarayana, a resident of Wilson Garden, came with her entire family.

They had only seen Kambala in movies and were excited to watch it live.

Experience of jockeys
The jockeys, who are used to running in natural paddy fields, were not disappointed with the manmade track at

Bengaluru Kambala. Srinivasa Gowda, also known as the Indian Usain Bolt, said he had a superb experience. "I will try to break my last year's record for completing 100 metres in 8.75 seconds," he said, after completing his sprint.

Over 50% students in Tier-II cities say not enough job opportunities

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

IN the current competitive job market, the need for advanced skills to be employable in any industry is crucial. However, 55.6 per cent of students in Tier-II cities of India, including major cities in Karnataka such as Belagavi, Raichur and Mysuru said that their colleges don't provide enough internship opportunities or industry projects. For female students, the statistics is as high as 58.3 per cent, who said they don't have enough support from colleges.

A recent survey conducted at the end of October 2023, showed that 33.46 per cent students feel there is a lack of relevant job opportunities for their selected courses.

Another 18.49 per cent believe that they don't have sufficient practical experience and 17.12 per cent who said that inadequate guidance by professors are some of the major

challenges students face while searching for jobs after graduating.

The survey was conducted with a diverse group of 24,000 students from Tier-I and Tier-II cities across the country, titled 'From Campus To Corporate: Mapping The Landscape Of Student Employability In India' by Edupull that helps students from Tier-II cities and local languages upskill for the job market.

The report in which 58 per cent participants were between the ages 18 and 24 years, suggested that educational institutions should consider regional differences in employability confidence, internship availability, and practical skills.

Interestingly, over 30 per cent of females in Tier-II cities across the country wanted to opt for companies based on the 'reputation of the company' surpassing the job role or position offered.

Speaking to TNIE, Rohan

Rai, co-founder, of Edupull and an alumni of IIT-Delhi said, "We see a lot of differences in confidence levels and the lack of opportunities, despite students in Tier-II cities saying that they are more skilled and employable in the current market. This is because the institutions based there don't have the right exposure or networks to offer."

He added that there is not enough career counselling happening in Tier-II cities, and there is a need for academia and industries should recognize the variation in soft skills. Other issues include despite the internet penetration not many have access to the right information or the guidance needed.

"Changing this will ensure that students are well-rounded and equipped with the communication, teamwork, and interpersonal skills demanded by the job market," read the 30-page report.

Kerala traders to host marriage of 81 couples

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

ALL India Muslim Cultural Centre (AIMCC) and Shihab Thangal Centre For Humanity (STCH), a Kerala Muslim traders' philanthropic wing is set to arrange mass marriage of 81 couples from across religions in Bengaluru. Interestingly, the members say that they not only arrange mass marriages, but they also follow up on the newlyweds, through annual counselling with them and their immediate family, to ensure the marriage lasts long.

Ameer Ali, Secretary, AIMCC, Bengaluru Chapter, said the traders from Kerala, who have settled in Bengaluru for more than 30 years, wanted to start a philanthropic activity, and had started with blood donation camps. From the last four years, they are also arranging mass weddings through which 400 couples have entered wedlock.

"The applications are invited well in advance to conduct

a background verification of the bride and bridegroom by contacting the panchayat office, ward office and local church, temple, and masjid committees. If the couple are from poor financial background, the wedding is arranged," said Dr Ali.

He added that they have marriage counsellors and experts, who would monitor the couple regularly, and conducting an annual meeting at STCH office, Siddapura near Jayanagar.

MK Noushad, general secretary of AIMCC, Bengaluru, stated that the couple must be residing in or within a 150-km radius of Bengaluru as it will be easy for verification and counselling.

The wedding ceremony will take place at Qudus Sahab Eidgah Maidan on Sunday. Hindu and Christian weddings will take place at their respective religious institutions and volunteers will be coordinating the same.



The 10th Graduation Day of Dr Ambedkar Institute of Technology was inaugurated by M Sankaran, Director of UR Rao Satellite Centre. Over 1,200 BE, M.Tech, MBA and MCA students graduated on the occasion | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

LAWASIA hosts moot competition on AI

Bengaluru: The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA) together with the Bar Association of India held the International rounds of 18th LAWASIA International Moot Competition, 2023 on Friday. The four-day-long competition is being held at Dwaraka Auditorium, Ramaiah Campus in Bengaluru. The winning team will be announced on November 27. Seven qualifying teams, including participants from NLU Jodhpur, and Singapore Management University, Singapore, will be competing in the international rounds. The moot problem is based on Artificial Intelligence and its interplay with technology and legal issues. Since its inception in 2005, the competition has grown to include 60 law schools from 30 different jurisdictions including Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, China, Australia and more. MR Jayaram, Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation, Raphael Tay, Chair, LAWASIA Moot Standing Committee, Isomi Suzuki, Former President of LAWASIA and other members were present.



GLOOMY DAY

A boy walks with an umbrella, as dark clouds loom ahead of afternoon showers, near Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday | ALLEN EGENUSEJ

TRANSGENDER'S LIVESTOCK WORTH ₹10 LAKH STOLEN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A transgender, who claims that 50 goats and sheep worth over Rs 10 lakh were stolen from her farm in Chitradurga district, has urged the police department to speed up investigation to find the thieves. Arundhati, a resident of Baramasagara village in Chitradurga, started to live on her own by getting into dairy and livestock rearing. However, her fate changed on October 26, when 50 goats and sheep, along with over 100 chickens, were stolen. "Though a complaint is lodged, the jurisdictional Baramasagara police have not taken any action yet. I wanted to lead a life on my own, but I have lost all my livestock worth over Rs 10 lakh and the police have still not found the thieves. I will be meeting the DG&IGP Alok Mohan on Monday and urge him to direct the jurisdictional police to take action," she said.

Woman strangles toddler grandson, buries his body

She was upset with the baby's early arrival

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

A woman, unhappy with her daughter-in-law, strangled her grandson and buried the body in her field at Purtageri village in Gajendragad taluk on November 22. The incident came to light after two days.

It is said the accused grandmother, Saroja Gooli, was unhappy that her son Kalakesh and daughter-in-law Nagarathna had the baby too soon. Kalakesh and Nagarathna married in 2021 and the baby, Advik, was born in February 2023.

After the delivery, Nagarathna went to her parents' house for a few months and had come to her in-laws' house only a few days ago, the police complaint said. On November 22, Saroja is suspected to have fed her grandson some inedible stuff, strangled him and buried the body in her mango farm to destroy evidence. When

Nagarathna returned home after domestic work, she could not find both Saroja and Advik. When asked, Saroja told her that she did not know where the baby was. Suspecting foul play, Nagarathna filed a complaint at the Gajendragad police station. During the investigation, the police exhumed the body and sent it for postmortem on Friday night. Nagarathna told the police that Saroja always tried to feed inedible things to the baby, but never expected her to kill the baby.

A police officer said, "We have sent the body for a postmortem and are waiting for the report. A complaint has been registered under Sections 498A, 201 and 302."

Gadag SP BS Nemagouda said, "We can confirm everything only after the postmortem report. We will carry out further investigation after we receive the report."

2 doctors, among 5, held for illegal sex-determination tests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Baiyappanahalli police have arrested five people, including two doctors, for running a sex-determination racket and aborting female fetuses. The accused were involved in the illegal activity for over two years, and 22-25 abortions were allegedly carried out every month at Matha Hospital in Mysuru.

The police in October arrested four people who allegedly used to approach pregnant women and take them to Mandya, where they had a medical setup inside a jaggery factory to determine sex of unborn children. After determining sex, the accused would

take the patients to Mysuru to carry out abortions.

The police said the accused have been identified as Dr Tulsi Ram, Dr Chandan Ballal, Meena, Rizma, and Nissar, who operated the racket in a coordinated manner. Dr Ram, the owner of Matha Hospital had reportedly handed over the charge of the hospital to his associate, Dr Ballal, who was managing the facility with his wife, Meena, as the former had to go back to his hometown Chennai for some time.

Expanding their illegal ventures, Dr Ballal opened Ayurvedic Piles Daycare Hospital in Mysuru, where

Rizma worked as a receptionist, while Meena was associated with the administration of Matha Hospital. Moreover, Nissar, a lab technician, assisted the doctors at both hospitals, the police added.

For each abortion, the accused charged Rs 25,000, the police said, explaining, Rizma and Meena were in contact with Veeresh, Nayan Kumar, Siddesh, and Shivalinge Gowda, who were previously arrested to ensure smooth operations from conducting tests in Mandya to performing abortions in Mysuru. The Baiyappanahalli police have registered a case.



OBITUARY



Late Shri Harikrishna S Holla

D.O.B : 20.06.1952, D.O.D : 20.11.2023

In loving memory of Late Shri Harikrishna S Holla, a cherished husband, a doting father, a distinguished lawyer and a passionate philanthropist. His generous spirit and selfless demeanour touched countless lives, leaving a legacy of kindness, integrity, empathy, and positive change. He dedicated his life to making a positive impact on the world, and his memory will forever inspire us to carry on his legacy of giving. He is survived by a loving wife Lalita Holla, children Mithila Holla and Abhishek Holla and son-in-law Sharath Kalyan.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Om Shanti. Sadgati Praptirastu.

Holla Associates

'WE CARE' TO HELP THOSE IN DISTRESS

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

IN view of the increasing number of suicide cases in the city, South-East Division of the Bengaluru City Police has launched "We care," a 24/7 helpline, aimed at providing support to those in distress.

The helpline offers assistance not only in Kannada but also in Hindi and English languages. This is because a large number of people, especially students, from other states reside in the areas

under the division.

According to sources, this multilingual approach helps in effectively addressing the problems faced by those in distress.

CK Baba, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Division, said, those in distress or their relatives/guardians can dial 8277946600 for help.

The number is also accessible on WhatsApp, providing people the option to choose the platform with which they are comfortable

to share their agony and pain.

Baba said stress and anxiety impact people from all age groups. The city recorded 1,967 suicide cases from January to October. Some suicide cases could have been prevented if timely support was provided to the victims.

Creating a safe place

This initiative's goal is to create a safe space where people feel comfortable to share their challeng-

ing experiences. Every problem has a solution, Baba said.

Fifty women from the Police Department have been trained at NIMHANS to handle mentally-challenging situations and anxiety. Initially, personnel would address issues over the phone.

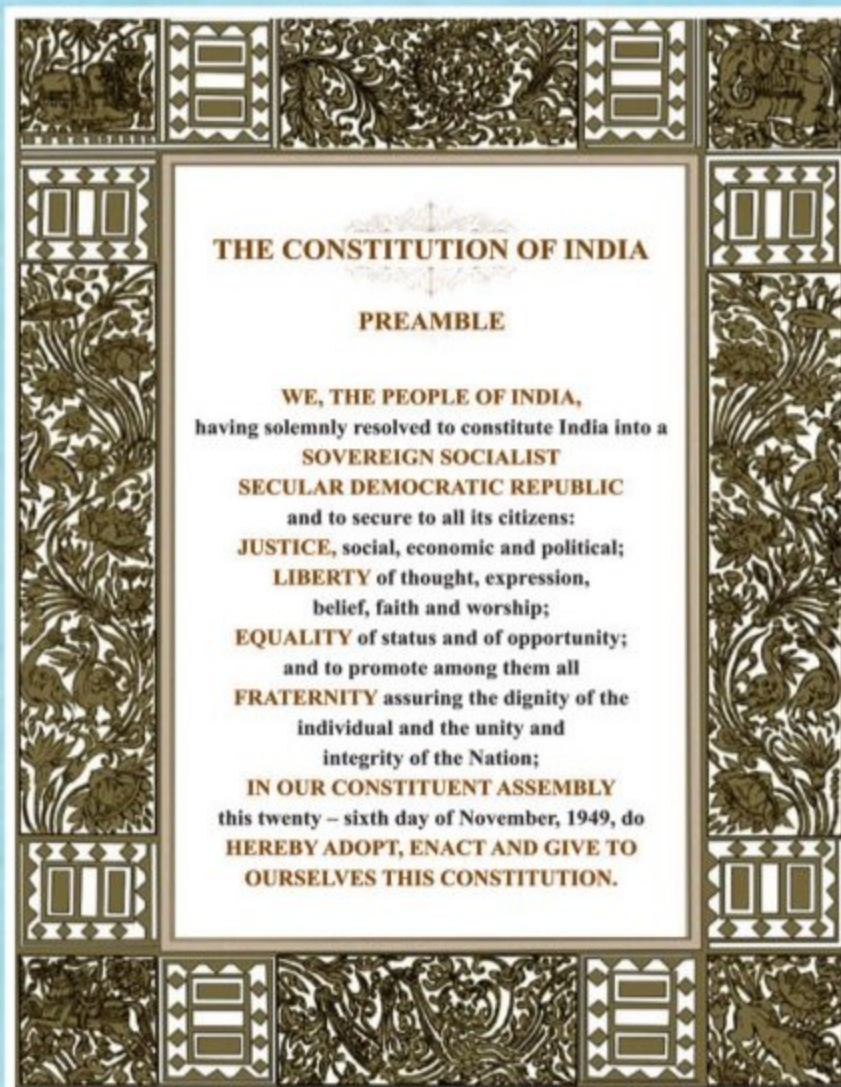
As part of this initiative, police personnel will also assist those struggling with suicidal thoughts in accessing treatment after assessing the situation.

Helpline number: 8277946600

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION



Social Welfare Department



Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Garlanding of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Amedkar's Statue on the Occasion of Constitution Day Celebrations

Sunday, 26.11.2023 at 10.00 AM
Venue: In front of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Achievements of the Government – Social Welfare Department

SCSP/TSP

Rs. 34,293.69 crore has been allocated to various Departments for the development of SC/ST's

24.10% reservation to SC/ST contractors for works up to Rs. 1 crore

Prize Money

Rs. 124.52 crore distributed to 65,420 SC students

KREIS Residential Schools

Total of 2,06,240 Students are studying in KREIS Schools

Swavalambhi Sarathi

Under this scheme unemployed youth of SC/ST are provided 75% subsidy, maximum up to Rs. 4 lakh to purchase four-wheeler vehicle

Pre-Matric Scholarship

An amount of Rs. 82.67 crore distributed to 6,74,162 SC students

Action initiated to remove Section 7(d) of SCSP/TSP Act 2013

Amendment to PTCL Act

No time limit to file complaints to competent authority on unauthorized transfer of lands granted by the Government to SC/ST's

Rs. 900 crore provided to construct own building to SWD Hostels and KREIS Residential Schools which are functioning in rented buildings



Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa

Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare interacting with the students.

Collateral Security Guarantee Scheme is extended to loans availed from Nationalised banks to encourage SC/ST entrepreneurs

Admission is provided to 1,88,284 students to SWD Hostels

Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

'WE WILL EXPOSE THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURES'

SENIOR BJP leader R Ashoka, appointed by the party as the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, says it is a challenging task and he will work hard to expose the government's failures. In an interaction with the editors and staff of TNSE, he said that in the Belagavi legislature session, they will highlight the government's shortcomings, including its failure to help people in drought-hit taluks. Excerpts...

What are your priorities as Leader of the Opposition?
When you are a minister, all the details will come to you with just a phone call. But being a Leader of the Opposition, it's different. One has to get the details. Our duty now is to tell people what mistakes the government is committing now. Our performance is important. If we do this better, we will be ruling the state next time. I will work towards that. I have been given this responsibility to uphold our party ideology and highlight what people need. This is challenging. We have to do it. And I will do it.

Why was there a delay in announcing the Leader of the Opposition by BJP? Didn't the party have faith in you?
The call on when to elect the leader and when to announce it is taken by the party high command. I have been elected seven times and I have worked more than 20 years for the party. Looking at my track record, they appointed me. They also appointed Vijayendra as the president as the party wants us to win all the 28 seats in the state in the Lok Sabha elections.

What are the issues you will raise at the Belagavi session?
It is our duty to raise the issue of the government's failure to provide relief to farmers, and we will do it. Apart from power, we will raise issues related to Cauvery river water sharing. Why are all the orders in favour of Tamil Nadu? This is because of negligence by the state government. We will also raise the issue of Minister Zameer Ahmed's statement on everyone having to bow before the Muslim Speaker. He is giving a communal colour. We look at the Speaker's chair as a Constitutional post. It was the then Prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who made APJ Kalam President of India. All of us respect each other. We will also take objection to the proposed State Education Policy. We will raise the issue about the caste census and Kantharaj Commission report.

You are visiting drought-hit areas. What are your findings?
Not even a single rupee has been released to provide relief to people. The government is confusing people. The CM is saying there is money in the deputy commissioners' accounts, which in reality is meant for other works and not for compensation for farmers. The government failed to take precautionary measures. Because of them, farmers are suffering.



How do you rate the Siddaramaiah government's performance in the last six months?

This government has indulged in corruption from day one. There is corruption in transfers, family involvement and they have not implemented what they promised. We have 1.25 crore BPL card holders, the government has not reached even 60,000. They are giving many reasons. On one side, the government says free buses, but children are seen walking to schools. Those who pay for tickets are standing and travelling in buses. Every year, we have to scrap old buses. With the Shakti scheme, there is a need for more buses. But the government does not have money to buy buses. All these are failures. They are yet to implement the Yuva Nidhi scheme for unemployed youth. Development has come to a standstill. We are in the second place in development and tax collection after Maharashtra. But now, we will lag behind. We have not taken up any works, including roads, irrigation projects, hospitals or new schools. We will go back five years.

What do you have to say about Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's remarks on Brand Bengaluru?

Recently, a mother and baby were electrocuted. This happened due to negligence. Just a couple of days ago, inside the metro train, a girl was assaulted. Metro trains, which are said to be safer, had such an incident. Is this Brand Bengaluru? Congress does not have any intentions to make Brand Bengaluru. They ruled for more than 50 years, they did not do it that time. Because of the BBMP polls, they have started talking about it. For Brand Bengaluru, we need more than Rs 60,000 crore. Where is the money? There is no money. For Brand Bengaluru, we need good roads, better street lighting, good sanitary lines, lesser pollution, women's safety and many such.

Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy says Shivakumar's Brand Bengaluru vision is a conspiracy to make money. What is your opinion?

DK Shivakumar has himself admitted that he is a businessman first and his passion is politics. The same can be seen in his Brand Bengaluru vision. Does he know Bengaluru? He is from Kanakapura. He doesn't know that the city is sitting on hard rocks and it is not possible to execute the tunnel road project. These projects are also not economically feasible. Keeping BBMP elections in mind, he announced Brand Bengaluru and as there is no sign of the elections, there is no word about the project now.

Why do you say there is a power struggle between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar?

It took four days for Congress to decide its chief minister. It would have been a one-hour job, but they all went to New Delhi. Shivakumar's Guru has predicted that he cannot become CM after 2023. Hence, Shivakumar is making all the efforts to become CM now. Some leaders from Davanagere and Mandya are already giving statements that they want Shivakumar as CM. That's why we say there is a power struggle between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the CM chair. The fight will become more evident after the Lok Sabha elections, when Congress MLAs will feel insecure about their CM. Siddaramaiah is a clever politician, he knows how to handle it and that's why he held a meeting with Home Minister Dr Paramehswara and Ministers HC Mahadevappa and Satish Jarkiholi.

Some BJP leaders are stating that they are not happy with your and Vijayendra's appointments...

Our party is democratic and everyone has the right to share their views. Only a few leaders are talking against the appoint-

ments. We have pacified them and they are very much in the party and will support our leadership.

Will BJP leaders who had plans to quit the party be retained?
Yes. Once the leadership is given to a proper captain, all will play their own roles by taking their positions in a game like football.

Congress used social media effectively against the previous BJP government. Do you think BJP failed to do the same?

I accept that we failed in tackling it and lost the elections. We asked for evidence (for 40% commission allegation) and asked them to file a complaint with the police, court or Lokayukta. But they didn't. Now, they are getting the taste of their own medicine as poster campaigns have started against them over cash for transfers. The only difference is that they didn't have evidence, but we have. Contractors were not paid their dues for five months. But soon, after the elections were announced for five states, Rs 750 crore was released. A few days later, there were Income Tax department raids in which Rs 50 crore at one place and Rs 54 crore at the other were unearthed. This is the evidence.

What is the difference you see in Siddaramaiah's first and second term as CM?

Siddaramaiah is inactive and Shivakumar is handling everything. He doesn't seem active and there is no aggression, hence there is no development in the state.

How do you plan to tackle Siddaramaiah, who has vast experience?

Siddaramaiah has neither morality nor ideology. He used to criticise Congress ideology when he was in JDS, and now he is criticising JDS. He has changed parties. It's different in my case as I have won seven times from a single party with one ideology. There will be strengths and weaknesses in every person. He may be strong in some subjects and so am I. I will fight him as the fight is not against him, but Congress.

Congress has already started identifying the candidates for parliamentary elections. What about BJP?

In the assembly elections, we faced setbacks as we delayed announcing candidates and also in starting campaigns. We have learnt from our mistakes. This time, we will finalise the candidates soon after discussions with central leaders.

From now on, will the BJP not raise the issue of dynasty/family politics?

What is the definition of family politics? For anything there must be some definition. It is Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra being in politics. That is dynastic politics. In Tamil Nadu, it is Karunanidhi, his children including daughters and sons in politics and Stalin being CM, his son a minister and sister an MP. One political party being in control of a family. That is family politics. Here in BJP, it is not like that. BS Yediyurappa's father was not in politics and Vijayendra's case is not included as part of family politics.

Your alliance partner JDS fits the bill when it comes to family politics, doesn't it?
We have nothing to do with it. We had an alliance with the re-

gional parties such as SAD (Shiromani Akali Dal) in Punjab and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

Congress-JDS alliance did not work in the 2019 LS polls. Do people have the same mindset about the BJP-JDS alliance?

But we have forged the alliance only after an assessment. Whenever JDS forged an alliance with Congress, it has failed. Despite knowing that fact they went with an alliance again. When Dharam Singh became CM in the Congress-JDS alliance government (in 2004), it was a big flop and in recent times, Shivakumar and Kumaraswamy forged an alliance, and that too proved to be a failure as there were fights regularly in the alliance government (in 2018). But we (BJP) went with an alliance with JDS once in 2006, and it was a success. If at all, Kumaraswamy's image got a boost as the best CM during that period, because of good governance given then with Yediyurappa as DyCM. We have forged the alliance for good governance, and there is no clash between us (BJP and JDS) in the old Mysuru region.

Who will gain more, JDS or BJP?

They are part of the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) now, and I cannot give judgement. But it will benefit both of us mutually. In the Bengaluru Rural LS constituency, we got over 6.5 lakh votes in 2019 and in 2024, we will win as the alliance will work. In Mandya, we had backed an independent (Sumalatha Ambareesh), and this time, if we club both BJP-JDS votes we will win. We will win Hassan naturally. Earlier, we never used to field our candidates in all the 28 seats and this time we will contest from all. In 2019, surveys had predicted 19, 20 and 21 seats for us, but we won 25, because of Modi's image and the magic. We have a leader. They (Congress) do not have one.

What is your plan after the session?

Both Vijayendra and I will tour the state with more aggression to win all the 28 seats. We will hold public rallies and protests and ensure BJP's visibility in Karnataka and fight against the corrupt Congress government.

It is alleged that the Central government has not responded to the state even as Karnataka is reeling under drought. State ministers are not getting appointments with Central ministers...

Congress ministers were all busy campaigning in Telangana. They were in a blame game forgetting their role. In the previous BJP government in the state, I was the revenue minister and we attended to the crop loss issue on our own. See the track record. When the state faced floods, I ensured that the relief reached farmers and the compensation reached their bank accounts with just a press of a button. Within 2-3 months, we covered the entire farmer population, without waiting for the Centre's assistance as the government had money. The central teams come and conduct the surveys. Assistance is released as per NDRF rules. The rules are the same for all states. But this state government has not been releasing the compensation of Rs 13,800 per acre of crop loss in the rainfed agriculture region. The treasury is empty as the free guarantees have eaten up the money. That is the problem.

Mysuru district in-charge minister H C Mahadevappa on Saturday directed officials to take measures to supply drinking water to the people and fodder for cattle during summer

DKS' assets case: Govt-Oppn set for a pitched battle



THE Siddaramaiah government's efforts to extricate Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe in the disproportionate assets case has kicked up a political storm. It is likely to engulf the winter session of the state legislature and keep the political atmosphere charged ahead of the Lok Sabha polls early next year.

The state government's contention that the then BJP regime had not taken the Assembly Speaker's consent before permitting the Central agency to probe the case, will be subjected to legal scrutiny as the issue is already before the courts. But, on the political front, both sides are preparing for a long and sustained fight. It will be one of the key issues around which the political discourse in the state will be centered in the run-up to the LS polls.

The entire cabinet, including the Chief Minister, rallied behind the DyCM who is also the president of the state unit of the Congress party, while the opposition BJP is going all guns blazing as it sniffs a potent issue to put the Siddaramaiah government on the mat over corruption and probity in public life. The Siddaramaiah government will also be accused of setting a bad precedent by attempting to stall the probe with retrospective effect.

The Income Tax Department conducted raids on Shivakumar's premises in 2017. Based on that, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) started its investigation. Following the ED investigation, the CBI had sought sanction from the state government to register an FIR against Shivakumar under the Prevention of Corruption Act. In 2019, the then BJP government headed by BS Yediyurappa gave consent for the CBI probe, and Shivakumar challenged it in the court. Now, the government has decided to withdraw the sanction accorded to the Central agency.

Given the sensitivity of the issue, the Congress leaders are showing swiftness and aggression in defending the government's stand. The party came to power on the promise of providing a clean and transparent administration. It cannot take the BJP's

allegations of trying to subvert the system to protect a leader facing serious charges lightly.

In his first stint as the CM, from 2013-18, Siddaramaiah was accused of attempting to weaken the Lokayukta. His government had defanged the anti-corruption ombudsman institution headed by a retired judge by establishing an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) headed by a police officer. Only after the court's intervention, the ACB had to be disbanded and Lokayukta's powers were restored. It was one of the issues in the 2018 assembly polls.

In Shivakumar's case, legal nuances aside, Congress will be more concerned about the BJP's attempts to build a narrative against the state government on the issue of corruption. If the state Congress leaders fail to handle the issue deftly, it can pose a threat to the party's larger plans of taking the "Karnataka Model" of governance to other states, and could even undo the gains accrued by implementing the guarantee schemes.

For now, the Congress leaders seem to be adopting a combative strategy to thwart the BJP's attempts to gain control of the narrative.

On its part, the BJP, under the leadership of newly appointed state president BY Vijayendra and Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, is showing similar aggression. Their efforts will be supplemented by former Chief Minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy who is going ballistic with his attack on the CM and DyCM, almost on a daily basis.

It will be the first big test for Vijayendra and Ashoka to take everyone in the party along in their fight against the Congress, both within the assembly and outside. Their challenge is to make it a national issue to target the Congress' central leadership and keep up the momentum till the Lok Sabha polls.

The issue could even lead to an uproar in the winter session of the state legislature starting from December 4 in Belagavi. Unfortunately, the session might end up being a platform for expressing growing animosity between the ruling and the opposition parties, instead of debating issues concerning the people of the state.

Long after the May 10 assembly polls, the political atmosphere in the state continues to be fully charged up. It will further intensify once the focus shifts to the Lok Sabha polls after the assembly elections in Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram.

Admin reforms panel wants FDA, SDA posts discontinued

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Administrative Reforms Commission-2 Chairman and former Chief Secretary TM Vijay Bhaskar submitted the commission's sixth report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday. The commission stated that there is no need to continue with First Division and Second Division Assistants and other clerical posts in many departments. "Clerical work would reduce considerably with the introduction and adoption of HRMS, Khajane 2 E Office, E Par, and E-Service Register. There may be no need for continuing with more FDA and SDA posts," it recommended.

The government may consider rationalising the posts or converting them to technical posts, it stated. The commission, which studied seven departments, stated eOffice is not being used in many offices. Head, district and taluk offices already have computers, scanners, printers and UPS with which they can start using eOffice for correspondence and sending files to higher offices. To speed up layout formation by the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB), the Housing Department may propose to the Urban Development Department to amend Sec 81 to add an explanation that under Sec 81 of the KTCP Act, 1961, KHB shall be deemed to be a local authority, it stated.

Allotment of sites to economically weaker section beneficiaries should be done by obtaining Aadhaar numbers of applicants and verifying from the Kutumba database, RGHC allottee list and linking with eKhata, eSwathu, BDA and BBMP databases. This will help weed out ineligible applicants, it added.

Tech summit to begin on Nov 29, to host biggest expo

BENGALURU: The three-day Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) will be held at Palace Grounds from November 29. The summit, with the theme "Breaking Boundaries" - Innovation from India, Impact for the World, will boast of its largest exhibition, besides the participation of experts from across the globe. The highlight is the Chandrayaan-3 ISRO-Industry Pavilion, which will unveil the next frontier for the country's space sector. For the first time, a 1:1 scale model of Chandrayaan-3 Lander will be on display. The summit will have multi-track conferences on IT and electronics, deep tech, startups, biotech, an international exhibition, global innovation alliance, India-USA tech conclave, R&D-Lab2Market, B2B meetings, STPI IT export awards, smart bio awards, VC awards, ATF awards, rural IT quiz and bio quiz. The summit promises over 75 sessions, 400 speakers, 350 startups, 600 exhibitors and over 20,000 business attendees. The summits in 2024 and 2025 will be held from November 19-21.

Somanna to lead dissidents to top brass

ENS @ Bengaluru

FORMER minister V Somanna, reportedly sulking over the appointment of former CM BS Yediyurappa's son BY Vijayendra as state BJP president, appears to be taking an initiative to unite like-minded leaders upset over the decision of the party top brass.

As the high command has summoned him to New Delhi anytime between December 7 and 9, he is leading a delegation of such leaders. "I will meet high command leaders along with Basanagouda Patil Yathal, Arvind Bellad, Arvind Limbavali and Ramesh Jarkiholi," he said at

Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru on Saturday. Yediyurappa, who was in town taking part in the 75th birthday of former MLC Dr MR Hulinaykar, skipped visiting the Mutt.

Somanna is holding a rally at the Mutt on December 6 on the sidelines of the inauguration of a 'guru bhavana'. Thereafter, he will break his silence over Vijayendra's appointment, Somanna said.

A Veerashaiva-Lingayat leader from the Old Mysuru region, he also has the strong backing of Tumakuru MP GS Basavaraju. "He (Somanna) helped me win against former PM HD

Deve Gowda in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Tumakuru. If the BJP high command gives him the ticket to contest from Tumakuru in 2024, I will back him," 84-year-old Basavaraju said.

Sources said Leader of Opposition R Ashoka has tried to pacify Somanna by getting an influential religious head to advise Somanna against quitting BJP.

"It is to be seen whether Union Home Minister Amit Shah manages to convince him again ahead of the Lok Sabha polls," sources added.



On 'combat duty', PM seeks defeat of KCR, Cong

Says vote for 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', no space in T'gana for 'Sultan Shahi Congress' or 'Nizam Shahi BRS'



PM Modi at a public meeting in Kamareddy district (Left), Rahul Gandhi addresses a public meeting in Telangana | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad

Asserting that Telangana will vote for "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" government in the ensuing elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that there was no space in Telangana for "Sultan Shahi Congress" or the "Nizam Shahi BRS".

Recalling that the TRS changed its name to BRS, and the Congress formed the INDIA bloc, Modi questioned if the change of name would change their history of corruption, misgovernance and vote bank politics. Addressing election meetings at Kamareddy—from where Chief Minister K Chandrababtu Naidu (KCR) and TPC chief A Revanth Reddy are testing their luck—and Maheshwaram, he alleged that the Congress and the BRS were two sides of the same coin.

Addressing the packed 12-

acre Government Degree College grounds in Kamareddy, Modi asked voters to reject both KCR and Revanth and said that the BRS supremo was contesting from two constituencies as he was afraid of losing in the first one. "People suffered during the nine years of misgovernance of the BRS. Now, they are preparing to get freedom from the betrayal of BRS as well as Congress. Congress and BRS don't believe in the politics of development and never speak about it; they confine themselves to abusing me," he said. People from all walks of life, young, old and women, reached the meeting venue in vehicles arranged by BJP workers in large numbers.

"KCR starts an irrigation project and it eventually turns out to be an irrigation scam. KCR started the Dalit Bandhu scheme and it has become BRS MLA Bandhu scheme," Modi alleged, criticising the chief minister for not honouring his

own "Dalit CM" promise.

Slamming the Congress and BRS, Modi said that these parties were only concerned about their kith and kin while BJP is the only party that thinks about the future of everyone.

"Telangana has got a government which treats youth as its enemy. On top of betraying the youth who were preparing for TSPSC, BRS has largely ignored the education sector and has been playing with the future of youth," he said. Modi claimed that the BRS government was not in a position to give salaries to employees and pensions to retired employees, and doubted how it could work for the upliftment of the poor. Locals said that this was the first time that Modi came to Kamareddy town after becoming the prime minister.

He assured to procure an additional 30 lakh tonnes of parboiled rice through FCI in the next procurement season to help the farmers in the state.

People suffered during the nine years of misgovernance of the BRS. Now, they are preparing to get freedom from the betrayal - PM Modi

6 guarantees for Telangana will be given approval in the very first meeting of the Cabinet after the Congress wins - Rahul Gandhi

We punctured BJP in TS, will deflate it in Delhi, says Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

RECALLING that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had got him disqualified as an MP, snatched away his official residence and filed 26 cases against him, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said that similar treatment would not meted out to Chief Minister K Chandrababtu Naidu as Modi and KCR were friends.

"Prime minister ki do yaar hai, Owaisi and KCR," Rahul said, affirming that the Congress would defeat the BRS in Telangana and "deflate the BJP" in Delhi. "Like how we punctured the BJP in Telangana, we will deflate it in Delhi," he said, addressing the election meetings in Bhodan, Nizamabad, Adilabad and Vemulawada Assembly constituencies on Saturday. Later in the day, Rahul interacted with unemployed youths at City Central Library.

Stating that the collapsing pillars of the Kaleshwaram project constructed by a "Dorala Sarkar" (feudal government) are on one side and the world-renowned Hyderabad city developed by "Prajala Telangana" (people's government) on the other, Rahul appealed the people to choose between the two wisely. He said that the "Prajala Telangana" Congress rule will start the very first day of the party coming to power. "The six guarantees for Telangana will be given approved in the very first meeting of the Cabinet after the Congress wins the coming elections," Rahul said.

Alleging rampant corruption in Telangana under BRS, he stated that KCR has kept all the "money-minting portfolios" within his family. Replying to the question posed by KCR as to what the Congress had done for Telangana, Rahul said that the BRS supremo was chief minister of a state made by the grand old party. "Besides, the schools and universities in which KCR studied to become the CM were also made by the Congress," he said.

Rahul also explained the Congress' six guarantees at the meeting.



Martyr Capt. M V Pranjal being taken in a procession before his last rites in Bengaluru on Saturday (Above). Wife Aditi, parents, in-laws and relatives of Pranjal pay their last respects at their residence | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Bengaluru tears up, pays last respects to Captain Pranjal

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

THOUSANDS queued up with flowers and garlands on Saturday morning to pay their final respects to the brave Captain MV Pranjal, who was martyred while fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, at his residence in Nandanavana Layout at Anekal in Bengaluru.

While the town had a sombre atmosphere, family, friends and well-wishers made sure to give the martyr a grand adieu. Several people also poured onto the streets in Jigani, holding Indian flags and raising slogans like 'Amar Rahe, Amar Rahe', 'Jai Hind' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' all the way to the Somasundarapalya crematorium at Kudlu Gate. The procession was over 15 km long. Students of different schools along the route assembled to pay homage to the soldier, encouraging each one to take the message back home that we live in peace because our jawans guard us at the borders.

The 28-year-old Captain Pranjal from 63 Rashtriya Rifles lost his life during an exchange of fire with terrorists in Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

As early as 7 am, the entire neighbourhood came together to offer support to the griev-

ing family. One of the Majors, on condition of anonymity, said, "I served with him for two years. We were posted in the same unit. He was very hardworking. He was doing the stressful job of adjutant and recently got released from those duties. Pranjal was appointed to the field which he always wanted. I have never seen him stressed. He never got angry with anyone. This is a loss for everybody."

He was set to become a Major within two weeks (December 9). After a wreath-laying ceremony, Capt Pranjal was accorded a guard of honour and 30 personnel from the state police and the Army gave him a gun salute.

Capt Pranjal is survived by his wife, Aditi, and his parents. Putting up a brave front, the parents were seen consoling their relatives and friends who teared up. The wife stood strong through the entire ceremony and bid goodbye to her husband maintaining her composure.

Bhaskar Rai, previously working with ASC Centre and served in J&K, Chandigarh, Jhansi and was neighbours with Capt Pranjal in Mangaluru, recalled how the martyr would reach out to know more about the army life and discuss various physical examinations before he enrolled.

Anand was disturbed by CBI raids, say sources

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ANAND hailed from Chennai and his death may not be linked with the recent CBI raids. A thorough investigation will reveal the truth, he added. Meanwhile, sources said Anand was under pressure after the CBI raids. The police should investigate the recent recruitments done in the board to ascertain if irregularities had taken place.

Added to online gambling

In the death note, Anand admitted that he had incurred huge losses due to online gaming. He stated that he was ending his life as he was unable to repay his debts, police sources said. The body was sent to Chennai in the evening. Anand's father, a retired IAS officer, lives in Chennai. His brother and sister live in Singapore.

EXPRESS READ

Man, nephew nabbed for causing harbour fire

Visakhapatnam: Six days after a fire engulfed the Zero Jetty at the fishing harbour, destroying over 40 boats, Visakhapatnam city police unravelled the mystery behind the accident and took two people into custody on Saturday. The accused have been identified as Vasupalli Nani (23) and his maternal uncle Allipalli Satyam. ENS

MODI, FIRST PM TO FLY FIGHTER JET SORTIE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi flew a sortie on indigenously designed and developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Modi took to the skies from the HAL airport. He is the first Indian prime minister to fly a fighter aircraft sortie.

After the sortie, Modi termed his experience incredibly enriching. "Successfully completed a sortie on Tejas. The experience was incredibly enriching, significantly bolstering my confidence in our country's indigenous capabilities, and leaving me with a renewed sense of pride and optimism about our national potential," the PM stated on X.

During the 30-minute sortie on the twin-seater aircraft, Modi looked cheerful and was

seen waving at the pilot of an aircraft that was flying along. The PM congratulated the Indian Air Force, DRDO, and HAL for the LCA's success.

"Today, Prime Minister Shri@narendramodi took a sortie in #Tejas which is our indigenously designed and developed multi-role Light Combat Aircraft. By flying in #LCA Tejas PM Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to take a fighter aircraft sortie," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted.

"This showcases his meticulous attention and appreciation for India's defense systems. Under his guidance India's defense manufacturing is growing by leaps and bounds," he said. The IAF stated that the PM undertook a 30-minute sortie on Tejas twin-seater aircraft from the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment in Bengaluru. Chief of Air Staff Air



PM Narendra Modi in full aviator gear walks up to Tejas before his sortie in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari felicitated Modi after the sortie.

Modi visited HAL's Bengaluru complex and reviewed the progress achieved in the pro-

duction of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

A statement from HAL said the PM visited the production line of LCA Tejas and interacted with the engineers there. The engineers briefed him that the aircraft is now powered by GE 404 engine which will be upgraded to GE 414 engine for LCA Mk II manufactured in India with 80% transfer of technology from GE Engines.

The PM was briefed about the capacity investments being done by HAL to scale up production of LCA Tejas aircraft. HAL has established two production lines of LCA Tejas in Bengaluru, which can produce up to 16 aircraft a year. An additional production line is being established at HAL, Nasik, to scale up LCA production beyond 24 from 2024-25 onwards. The engineers also explained about the progress made on the LCA MKII programme.

16-yr-old boy playing cricket electrocuted

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH
@Dharwad

A 16-year-old boy died after he came in contact with a live power cable at Siddharameshwar Colony here on Friday evening.

It is said that a few boys were playing cricket in the locality and the ball fell on a nearby construction site. Shreyas S, who went to fetch the ball, accidentally touched the live cable and suffered severe burns. He died on the way to hospital.

"We visited the construction site where the boy went to get

the ball. Children of the locality are aware of the power line running close to the building under construction there. The boy might have accidentally touched the 11kv wire while getting the ball," a police officer said.

A resident of the locality said the children, who were playing cricket in the evening, started screaming for help all of a sudden. When people rushed to the spot, they saw the boy laying down and he was alive. However, the boy died while he was being taken to hospital. Town police have registered a case. Further investigations are on.



FESTIVE SPIRIT

A man purchases miniature paper boats on the roadside in Bhubaneswar on the occasion of Kartika Purnima on Saturday | SHAMIM QURESHY

Vaishnav reviews railway safety

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MINISTER of Railways, Communications and Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnav conducted a detailed review of various safety aspects of Indian Railways on Saturday. The meeting was attended by senior officials of Ministry of Railways as well as General Managers of 17 Railway Zones throughout the nation.



The minister emphasised on several aspects of railway operations such as automatic signalling, working hours of crew, modernisation of railway yards with the in-

fusion of latest technology incorporating latest standards of safety. He also highlighted the need to keep the disaster management teams and equipment ready to meet any challenge in a short time.

Senior officials from SWR Head Quarters and Bengaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi Divisions took part in the meeting through video conference.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 25 member team of professionals received specialized training to serve as 'warriors against acid attacks' in a first-of-its-kind initiative. The group of people who received the training are poised to provide crucial assistance, and protection to acid attack survivors across the country, along with

Services, including first aid, psychological counselling, and emotional Empowerment, will operate on a need-based approach

helping them build courage.

The services, including first aid, psychological counselling, and emotional empowerment, will operate on a need-based approach. The professionals un-

derwent a hybrid-pattern training to adeptly handle diverse situations. Certificates were provided by the Emotional First Aid Academy, headed by Professor Sunitha K Mani at an event in Vasanthnagar on Saturday.

Sunitha emphasized the horrors faced by acid attack victims and underscored the purpose of the training was to empower victims in rebuilding

their lives. Beyond physical treatment, she stressed the imperative of psychological and emotional care for these survivors.

This initiative marks a significant stride in addressing the multi-faceted needs of acid attack survivors, fostering a positive shift in their recovery journey, the imperative of psychological and emotional care for these survivors.

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■ 'Posts violate the silence period of 48 hours in the run-up to polls' ■ PC says oppn leaders being targeted

BJP rakes up Rahul's X post on Raj poll day

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Saturday accused Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of violating poll guidelines with their posts on X on the day of the Rajasthan assembly polls and urged the Election Commission to seek suspension of their social media accounts and initiate other actions against them.

In their posts, both Congress leaders have urged people to vote for their party.

The BJP wrote to the Election Commission, saying their posts violate the silence period of 48 hours in the run-up to the polls, a period during which most form of campaigning is barred.

Taking to 'X', Rahul urged the voters of poll-bound Rajasthan by posting in Hindi: "Rajasthan will choose free treatment. Rajasthan will choose cheaper gas cylinders, Rajasthan will choose interest-free agricultural loans, Rajasthan will choose English-medium education, Rajasthan will choose OPS and Rajasthan will choose caste census. Today go out in large numbers and exercise your franchise. Elect a Congress government that is beneficial to the people and has guarantees — once again Congress."

Priyanka Gandhi urged the people of Rajasthan to cast their ballot, saying "your every vote, for a beautiful future, for rights, for Congress' guarantees", listing Congress' promises.

The BJP held the post violated



the poll guidelines and lodged a complaint with the ECI demanding action against Rahul on the day the state went to the polls. The BJP in its complaint has said that Rahul Gandhi had flouted the poll guidelines pertaining to the 48-hour 'silence limit' by posting such messages on X.

"The social media platform X and its functionalities may also be directed to immediately suspend the account and remove the aforesaid offending contents with immediate effect lest it further violate the 48-hour silence zone and cause irreparable injury to the doctrine of free and fair elections," said the BJP.

It said the poll panel should also direct the Chief Election Officer, Rajasthan, to file a criminal complaint and initiate criminal prosecution against them. The poll watchdog has reiterated media platforms must ensure that the contents of their programmes during 48 hours referred to in Section 126 (RP Act) do not contain any material that may be construed as promoting or prejudicing the prospect of any party.



Today, go out in large numbers and exercise your franchise. Elect a Congress government that is beneficial to the people and has guarantees — once again Congress

Rahul Gandhi on X

What BJP says

The complaint has said that Rahul Gandhi flouted the poll guidelines pertaining to the 48-hour 'silence zone' by posting such messages on X.

'Govt misusing probe agencies during polls'

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

At least four Congress candidates in Telangana were summoned or their premises searched by the investigating agencies in the midst of the election campaign

P Chidambaram, Congress leader

More ED cases

In Rajasthan, the agencies summoned CM Ashok Gehlot's son, party chief Govind Singh Dotasra, and independent MLA Om Prakash Hudla. The ED has made multiple arrests in Chhattisgarh in two cases. In Madhya Pradesh, it is probing an old case against Kamal Nath's nephew.

STEPPING up attack on the Modi government over the alleged unleashing of central agencies against leaders of Opposition parties, Congress leader and former Union minister P Chidambaram on Saturday said that the misuse of central agencies is so apparent that it doesn't even require an argument in a court of law.

In a post on micro-blogging site X, Chidambaram pointed out how four Congress candidates in the Telangana elections have either been summoned or their premises searched by investigating agencies in the middle of election campaign in the state.

"At least four Congress candidates in Telangana were summoned or their premises searched by the investigating agencies in the midst of the election campaign. One of them was the chairman of the BJP's Manifesto Committee and had resigned from the BJP on November 1," said the leader, adding that no BJP candidate has been searched by the agencies so far.

The Congress MP was referring to the raid by the enforcement directorate of former MP G Vivekanand, who had joined the Congress from BJP. Vivekanand is now contesting the assembly elections.

"It is obvious that all candidates of the BJP were chosen

by the gods and carry divine blessings. In fact, if the BJP is elected, the party will take the people of Telangana straight to heaven," he said.

Early this week, the ED attached properties worth ₹751.9 crore in connection with a money-laundering case against the Congress party-promoted Young Indian that owns the National Herald newspaper. Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge described the move as "petty vendetta tactics" to "divert attention from a certain defeat" in the ongoing assembly elections.



"The misuse of the investigating agencies is so obvious that it does not require any argument in a court of law," Chidambaram added. Multiple raids of party leaders and ministers in poll-bound Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh had invited sharp protests from Congress and other Opposition leaders in the past few months.

In Rajasthan, the agencies have summoned Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son and party chief Govind Singh Dotasra, as well as independent MLA Om Prakash Hudla in connection with a money-laundering case. The ED has also made multiple arrests in Chhattisgarh in two separate cases. In Madhya Pradesh, the agency was probing an old case against Congress leader Kamal Nath's nephew.

Complex interplay between AI & personhood: CJI

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

IN the digital age, people are faced with several fascinating aspects of Artificial Intelligence and are confronted with fundamental questions about the ethical treatment of such technologies, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said.

Addressing the plenary session of the 36th 'LAWASIA' conference virtually on Saturday, the CJI said "there is a complex interplay between AI and personhood, where we find ourselves navigating uncharted territories that demand both philosophical reflection and practical considerations."

He said identity and its recognition by the State plays a crucial part in what resources people get and their ability to express their grievances and demand their rights.

The CJI cited that a human-robot (Sophia) that was granted citizenship in Saudi Arabia. "We must reflect on whether all humans who live, breathe and walk are entitled to personhood and citizenship based on their identity," he said.

Talking about the caste system, he said that caste, far from



We must reflect on whether all humans who live, breathe and walk are entitled to personhood and citizenship based on their identity... there is a complex interplay between AI and personhood where we find ourselves navigating uncharted territories...

DY Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India

being a vestige of the past, continues to exert significant influence on contemporary socio-economic and political landscapes. Its resilience is evident in the social stratification, economic disparities and access to opportunities by different caste groups. Caste dynamics in the region are not exclusively shaped by religious affiliations; the intricate caste

system is not merely a response to historical inequality but functions as an important tool for disrupting entrenched societal structures, he said.

Citing reports including the one by Justice Ranganath Misra Commission, he said it draws attention to the widespread abuse faced by marginalised social segregation, untouchability, underrepresentation and

limited access to education.

These findings underscore the pressing need for affirmative action to address the deeply rooted discrimination within this complex tapestry. Affirmative action emerges as a transformative force challenging the established caste dynamics. It goes beyond the misconception of caste as a solely cultural phenomenon and serves as a catalyst for change, he said.

The CJI said traditionally, liberty has been understood as the absence of state interference in a person's right to make choices. However, contemporary scholars have come to the conclusion that the role of the State in perpetuating social prejudices and hierarchies cannot be ignored, Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

"I remember one of my predecessors Chief Justice Sharad Bobde recognised the necessity to consider the social exclusion of Christians and Muslims from the Scheduled Caste, reinforcing the urgency of addressing these issues; the argument unfolds cohesively, illustrating how affirmative action works

as a beacon of hope to dismantle an age-old caste-based inequalities and paving the way for a more equitable future." Noting that liberty is the ability to make choices for oneself and change the course of life, the CJI said identity intersects with the person's life choices.

"As lawyers, we are constantly confronted with this intersection and the role of the State to limit or expand the life opportunities of the people. While the relationship between the state and liberty has been understood widely, the task of establishing and explaining the relationship between identity and liberty is incomplete," he said.

Citing English philosopher John Stuart Mill's On Liberty published in 1859, he said the author discussed the historical struggle between liberty and authority describing the tyranny of the government which in his view needs to be controlled by the liberty of citizens.

The idea of liberty, the Chief Justice said, can be summarised in the phrase, "Your right to swing your fist ends where my nose begins."



Retain 'sex worker' in SC handbook of stereotypes, activists write to CJI

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

DAYS after the Supreme Court decided to replace the term 'sex worker' in its handbook on gender stereotypes, more than one-and-a-half lakh sex workers submitted a memorandum to Chief Justice of India Chandrachud, urging that the proposed move will be detrimental to the rights and hard-won dignity of sex workers.

After receiving suggestions from a group of anti-trafficking NGOs that the term 'sex worker' promotes gender stereotypes, the SC on November 10 said that it will amend the term to 'trafficked victim/survivor or woman engaged in commercial sexual activity or woman forced into commercial sexual exploitation'. In its 30-page Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes released in August this year, the SC used the word 'sex worker' for words like 'hooker'

Segregation

The terms 'sex worker' and 'victims of trafficking' refer to two different realities: one of agency and consent, and the other of force and deceit. "Retaining the separation of the terms ensures that laws and policies are appropriately targeted to serve each distinct category," said the letter representing 1.5 lakh sex workers to Chief Justice of India

and 'prostitute'. The handbook was widely seen as a promising step by the judiciary to free itself from the usage of gender stereotypical language in its proceedings. In its memorandum to the CJI, members of the National Network of Sex Workers (NNSW) said that the framing of sex workers as victims of trafficking precludes the application of the labour rights framework



to their work, which results in the lack of redressal of unfair working conditions, and violence within work, among other rights violations.

The NNSW comprises 84 organisations across 10 states with over 1.5 lakh sex workers as members. "Trafficking of persons into forced or coerced labour (including sexual exploitation) should not be equated with sex work undertaken by consenting adults," it said.

The terms 'sex worker' and 'victims of trafficking' refer to two different realities: one of agency and consent, and the other of force and deceit. "Retaining the separation of the terms ensures that laws and policies are appropriately targeted to serve each distinct category and thereby cause no harm when applied," said the letter.

The conflation of 'trafficking' with sex work adversely affects migrant women who engage in sex work as gainful work, the letter pointed out.

Local cuisines for NHAI events with PM presence

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has come up with a slew of add-ons to the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for its events that would have the Prime Minister in attendance. A fresh set of guidelines drafted by the highways authority recently is based on experience and "lessons learnt" during the past events.

With the new guidelines in place, dignitaries attending the foundation-laying ceremonies or inaugurations of highway development projects along with the Prime Minister can expect to sate their taste buds with local delicacies, as the new SoP specifies addition of native cuisines to the food menu for such functions.

According to the addendum, separate green rooms should be ensured near the podiums with toilets with adequate water supply, and cooling arrangements for governors, ministers, chief ministers and heads of departments.

"A standard list of essential

ADD-ON PROTOCOLS	
Separate green rooms near the podium with toilets with adequate water supply, and cooling arrangements for governors, ministers, chief ministers and heads of departments	Prior procurement of essential items required for the PM in green room from SPG
Native cuisines in food menu served at NHAI functions	Procurement of materials to felicitate dignitaries, such as mementoes & turbans, one day in advance and checked for fitting
Crowd management, live streaming of protocols and security arrangements	Venues that can accommodate 25,000 to 1 lakh people, with space for helipad in vicinity
	Track to be prepared in consultation with SPG if the PM plans to visit in an open vehicle

items required for the Prime Minister in green rooms should be obtained from the SPG (special protection group) to avoid last-minute hurry," read the supplementary SoP.

It further states that materials to felicitate the dignitaries, such as mementoes and turbans, should be procured at least one day in advance and checked for their fitting.

The NHAI had, in April, come up with some guidelines, which primarily dealt with publicity materials — banners and brochures, arrangements such as backdrop at the dais, preparations of notes for the Prime Minister's speech, and sending information pertaining to the project to the Prime Minister's Office. The 20-point guidelines aimed to achieve ef-

iciency and avoid last-minute goof-ups. Provision was also made for a four-member committee of senior officials to finalise each activity related to the proposed event.

In the addendum to the SoP released recently, more measures have been described, such as the process of identification of executing officers and responsibilities; selection of venues that can accommodate 25,000 to 1 lakh people, with space for helipad in the vicinity; crowd management; live streaming of protocols, and security arrangements.

It also says that a track should be prepared in consultation with the SPG if the Prime Minister plans to visit the venue in an open vehicle.

"As per the latest trend, the Prime Minister may visit the venue in an open vehicle, moving through the crowd in front of the stage. This issue is required to be discussed with SPG in advance and adequate barricading and vehicle track (if the soil is weak) should be prepared," the SoP states.

AI WIZARD OUSTED AND REINSTATED IN OPENAI

UMA KANNAN

PENAI, Microsoft and Sam Altman. Though there are many things interconnected among the three, all the three managed to grab the headlines last week, with clear focus on Altman, AI wizard and co-founder and CEO of ChatGPT-maker OpenAI.

First, OpenAI's board of directors ousted its high-profile CEO Altman, and appointed its CTO, Mira Murati, as the interim CEO. Second, even while debates were on about his sudden sacking, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella declared that Altman will join Microsoft to lead a new advanced AI research team. Soon, OpenAI announced its CEO — former CEO of Twitch, Emmett Shear.

When the tech industry concluded that Altman will be working with Microsoft, he was reinstated by OpenAI as employees threatened to resign en masse, and the board that sacked him replaced.

Altman, 38, grew up in Missouri. Eldest among four siblings, he learned to programme when he was aged only eight. "I am a mid-western Jew with an awkward childhood at best," Altman told New York Magazine.

Altman, a gay, came out in high school. This surprised even his mother, a dermatologist, and father, a property broker. In a podcast, he had said that his private high school was not the kind of place where one would really stand up and talk about being gay. His childhood idol was Steve Jobs, and he studied computer science at Stanford University for two years, but dropped out to start a location-based social networking app called Loopt.

Loopt allows individuals to use their location to discover the real world around them, and the start-up was part of the eight companies at start-up accelerator Y Combinator (YC). Loopt managed to complete Series A and B financing and in 2012, the start-up agreed to be acquired by Green Dot Corporation for \$43.4 million in cash. Altman broke up with Loopt co-founder Nick Sivo, whom he had been dating for nine years, after the firm was acquired.

In 2014, Altman became Y Combinator's president. The New Yorker interviewed Altman in 2016, and said in an article, "Altman's great strengths are clarity of thought and an intuitive grasp of complex systems. His great weakness is his utter lack of interest in ineffective people."

Altman is considered to be the classic Silicon Valley geek and a workaholic. The New



Yorker reported, "Two YC partners sat Altman down and told him, 'Slow down, chill out!' Sam said, 'Yes, you're right' and went off and did something else on the side that we didn't know about for a while." That was YC Research, a non-profit, initially funded with a 10 million dollar personal gift.

According to the New York Post, Altman owns a \$27 million house on San Francisco's Russian Hill and a ranch in Napa Valley. He likes to fly, and race his fleet of prestige cars that include a \$1m Lexus LFA and more than one McLaren. Though his exact net worth is not known, reports claim it to be around \$500 million. Reports also claim that Altman's present partner is Oliver Mulherin, a software engineer located in the San Francisco Bay area.

In 2015, he teamed with Elon Musk and others to start OpenAI, initially started as a non-profit AI research company, and in 2019, he left YC to focus on OpenAI. In 2018, Musk left OpenAI, and a for-profit subsidiary was created that started raising money from investors.

Microsoft invested \$1 billion in OpenAI in 2019. Three years later, it made a multi-billion-dollar investment. So far, the tech giant has invested over \$13 billion in OpenAI, whose valuation now stands at about \$29 billion.

When OpenAI introduced ChatGPT, it went viral and every company started talking about generative AI.

It is said that before his ouster, the board felt that Altman was not always honest in his talk. Some members felt he was too focused on expansion, when they wanted to balance growth with AI safety.

Altman expects AI to be capable of superhuman persuasion well before it is superhuman at general intelligence, which may lead to some very strange outcomes. Now that he is back as the CEO, the tech world expects big AI announcements in near future.

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	23	Mumbai	33	28
Bhopal	33	18	Panaji	32	24
Jaipur	36	24	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	36	18	Lucknow	36	22
Chennai	36	27	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	34	27	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	27	05	Chandigarh	35	19

Gehlot, Raje political career at stake

Polling in Rajasthan sees stray incidents of booth capturing, firing and stone-pelting

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

AMID claims of victory by the ruling Congress and the rival BJP, people in Rajasthan turned up in large numbers to cast their votes across the state on Saturday. In the high-stakes battle between the Congress and BJP, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is seeking a second consecutive term in a state known for its revolving-door verdicts while the BJP is banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and the anti-incumbency trend to return to power in the desert state.

At the end of the day, over 70 per cent, (the voting percentage was 68.24 till 5 PM) percent of voters had used their franchise to express their choices. The highest voting took place in Jaisalmer district at 76.57% while the lowest turnout was seen in Pali district at 60.71%. Till 5 pm in Rajasthan, 68.24% voting took place. (will update the figures)

The polling for 199 out of Rajasthan's 200 seats saw brisk voting from 7 am till 6 pm in the evening. The election in Sriganganagar's Karanpur seat has been suspended because of the death of Congress candidate and sitting MLA Gurmeet Singh Koonar. The voting remained largely peaceful in Rajasthan except for some sporadic disputes. The polling in some areas in east Rajasthan saw attempts at booth capturing. There are also reports of firing and stone-pelting at some places in Bharatpur and Dholpur districts.



Sachin Pilot and other voters show their fingers marked in Jaipur on Saturday | PFI

Long queues of voters were seen at polling booths in cities and villages. Enthusiasm was visible among the people since morning and there were long queues of voters at polling stations all through the day. Voters included a newly-wed couple that voted at Sagar Public School in Hawamahal assembly constituency of Jaipur. As voting is done, the future of 1,846 candidates in Rajasthan elections is now locked in EVM machines. The counting is on December 3. No government has been given a second term since 1993.

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In Niwai seat of Tonk, a 113-year old woman Bhuli Devi cast her vote. The bride and groom also came to vote at booths of many assembly seats including in Jaipur, Alwar, Jhalawar, Shrimadhpor. After the marriage, before taking the bride home, the groom stopped the car and voted for the first time at booth number 119 of Shrimadhpor.

With voting completed, the

political future of 1,846 candidates in Rajasthan elections is now locked in EVM machines. The counting is due on December 3. The voters have not given any government a second term since 1993. After casting his vote in Jodhpur, CM Gehlot told the media that this time, the trend will change and his government will reemerge victorious.

"This time people are convinced that such good work has never happened before. There is no wave against the government. Instead there is an undercurrent of support which will help us form the government. The youth, women, the farmers and the students all have faith in us."

In sharp contrast, former chief minister and national vice president of BJP, Vasundhara Raje said: "The people of

Long queues seen

Long queues of voters were seen at polling booths in cities and villages. Enthusiasm was visible among the people since morning and there were long queues of voters at polling stations all through the day. Voters included a newly-wed couple that voted at Sagar Public School in Hawamahal assembly constituency of Jaipur. As voting is done, the future of 1,846 candidates in Rajasthan elections is now locked in EVM machines. The counting is on December 3. No government has been given a second term since 1993.

Rajasthan have approved the vision, development and credibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Therefore, now darkness will end in Rajasthan and lotus will bloom." Though there is no clarity about Raje's role even if BJP wins, among all state BJP leaders she held the maximum rallies during the Rajasthan campaign.

This election is critical for the political future of many stalwarts, including Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, former CM Vasundhara Raje and former deputy CM Sachin Pilot. Gehlot, who has been Chief Minister three times, is contesting from Sardarpura seat of Jodhpur. He has been the MLA from this seat since 1998. Vasundhara Raje, who has been the Chief Minister twice, is contesting from her Jhalrapatan seat of Jhalawar.

14 Chouhan mins, 5 of Nath regime on sticky wicket

ANURAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AROUND 14 ministers of the current Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government and at least five ministers of Kamal Nath-led erstwhile Congress government may well find themselves on a sticky wicket on December 3, the day of the counting of votes polled in the November 17 assembly polls.

A week after the highest ever 77%-plus turnout in Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, inputs from ground zero suggest that at least 14 ministers of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, including five Jyotiraditya Scindia-loyalist ministers, may be locked in the closest of poll battles from their citadels, particularly due to rising anti-incumbency against them.

The list of such ministers, includes nine cabinet ministers and five ministers of state, the prominent among whom are, home minister Narottam Mishra from Datia seat, agriculture minister Kamal Patel (Harda seat), animal husbandry minister Prem Singh Patel (Barwani), MSME minister Om Prakash Sakhelecha (Jawad-Neemuch), tourism and culture minister Usha Thakur (Mhow-Indore) and cooperatives minister Arvind Singh Bhadoria (Ater-Bhind).

'Anti-incumbency'

Inputs from ground zero suggest that at least 14 ministers of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, including five Jyotiraditya Scindia-loyalist ministers, may be locked in the closest of poll battles from their citadels, particularly due to rising anti-incumbency against them.

Among the ministers of state, Bharat Singh Kushwah (Gwalior-Rural), school education minister Inder Singh Parmar (Shujalpur) and backward castes and minority welfare minister Ramkhelawan Patel (Amarpatan-Maihar) too, may find themselves in a difficult situation on the counting day.

The five Jyotiraditya Scindia-loyalist ministers (who were among then 22 Congress MLAs, who toppled the Kamal Nath-led 15-month-old Congress regime in March 2020) too are believed to be caught in the tightest of contests.

They included cabinet ministers - revenue and transport minister Govind Singh Rajput (Surkhi-Sagar), panchayati raj and rural development minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia (Bamori-Guna) and industrial policy and investment promotion minister Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon (Badnawar-Dhar).



HARPREET BAIWA

Our correspondent in Chandigarh

hsbjawa73@gmail.com

Quota verdict: BJP-JJP differences grow

Haryana BJP has been maintaining a silence over the recent verdict of the High Court declaring the law mandating 75% reservation in private jobs for locals "unconstitutional". The BJP did not issue any statement, creating an impression that its alliance partner Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) was the one behind the law. The HC decision was a major setback for the deputy CM and JJP head Dushyant Chautala who had credited himself for the law. Moreover, it was only Chautala who said the decision would be challenged in the SC. Whatever it may be, the verdict has exposed the fiction between the BJP and JJP.



'Video war' between AAP and SAD

Rulling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in opposition recently claimed that both have evidence of wrongdoings against each other. Senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia said he has proof of an "act of moral turpitude" by an AAP minister and without naming any he displayed a pen drive containing the evidence and added that he would soon hand over the drive to CM Bhagwant Mann. Reacting to the allegations, CM Mann in a rally reminded Akali of "videos of former minister Sucha Singh Langah and ex-MP Sher Singh Ghubaya" which are with him.

Disquiet in Punjab bureaucracy

The Punjab bureaucracy is apparently unhappy with the ruling AAP as many officers have been awaiting their posting. Senior IAS officers DK Tewari and Gurpreet Singh Khaira were suspended this August over "prematurely dissolving the panchayats". Both have been reinstated but they are still awaiting their posting. In another example, IAS officers Amit Talwar and Nilkanth S Ahvadh, who were transferred, are also waiting for the next posting. Moreover, there are such instances in police services as well. Senior IPS Naunihal Singh who was transferred recently from the post of Amritsar Police Commissioner is now without a post.

Union minister for CBI inquiry into Bengal's mid-day meal scheme

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

UNION minister of state for Education Subhas Sarkar on Saturday said he has recommended the CBI to probe alleged irregularities in Centrally-funded mid-day meal scheme in the state-run schools in West Bengal.

If the federal agency responds to Sarkar's recommendation, another case will come under the scanner of the central agency at a time when a slew of alleged irregularities, right from recruitment scam to cattle smuggling, are being probed by the federal agencies. Sarkar's announcement comes a day after Leader of the Opposition Suvedu Adhikari attacked the state government alleging massive irregularities in the scheme.

"Following a series of investigations by the central teams, several irregularities have been identified. So we had no other option left but to recommend a CBI probe in the matter," said Sarkar.

Central teams had visited the



state-run schools in early this year and submitted a report mentioning ₹100 crore losses and lesser amount of food scheduled under the scheme.

State education minister Bratya Basu refuted all the allegations and questioned the manner in which the central teams submitted its report. "The central teams submitted its report hurriedly without the signature of the state government representatives of the team."

Welcoming Sarkar's announcement, Adhikari said on X handle, "I am elated to know that the @CBIHeadquarters has been requested by the Education Ministry to make a detailed inquiry to ascertain misuse of PM POSHAN funds."

PM's security breach: Punjab suspends SP

HARPREET BAIWA @ Chandigarh

NEARLY after two years the Punjab Government has suspended Bathinda Superintendent of Police (Investigations) Gurwinder Singh Sangha for dereliction of duty in connection with security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state on January 5, 2022. At the time of the incident, Sangha was posted as SP (Operation) Ferozepur.

As per the order issued by the state home department on November 21, Gurbinder Singh, who is posted as Bathinda SP, has been placed under suspension with immediate effect.

"A report dated October 18, 2023, was submitted by the director general of Punjab Police in connection with the security breach during Modi's visit wherein the DGP made remarks that Gurbinder Singh, did not perform his duty properly," Modi was on his way to Hussainiwalla by road on January 5, when he had to take a U-turn after farmers' protesters blocked his way. He had to return to Delhi. The security breach had caused an uproar.

Manipur's cycle of violence: One Kuki-Zo tribal killed in gun fight

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

A Kuki-Zo tribal was killed during a pre-dawn gunfight between two groups in Manipur on Saturday as the violence in the strife-torn state continued. The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) identified the 21-year-old deceased as Khupminthang of Phaikholum village. He was a village volunteer, the tribal organisation said.

The gunbattle occurred at Joupi, a Kuki-Zo village in the Kangpokpi district bordering Bishnupur district in the Imphal valley. The ITLF said the assailants had fired from sophisticated weapons but the Kuki-Zo village volunteers stood their ground, defending the village with single-barrel rifles.

Tension gripped the villagers on both sides of the Kangpokpi-Bishnupur border following the incident as they apprehended further attacks and counter-attacks. Security was beefed up in the areas.

After the incident, the Kuki Students' Organisation declared a lightning closure of shops in Churachandpur district. Its general secretary DJ Haokip said the deceased was



the only son of a widowed woman. The attack was carried out after two other Kuki-Zo tribals were killed in an ambush by unidentified gunmen in the Kangpokpi district on Monday.

After the duo's killings, the Committee on Tribal Unity had declared a shutdown in the district. Meanwhile, three Kuki-Zo MLAs in the state have been "replaced" as chairpersons of Assembly committees.

The Assembly secretariat issued separate notifications on the fresh appointments but did not cite any reasons why the trio was replaced. Rule 198 (2) of the Assembly says, "If the

chairman is for any reason unable to act, the Speaker may appoint another chairman in his place." Two of the legislators replaced are former director general of police-turned-politician LM Khaute and Vungzang Valt, both from ruling BJP, while the third - Haokholet Kipgen - is an independent legislator. On May 3, the day the ethnic violence broke out, Valt was grievously injured after being attacked by a mob and flown to Delhi for treatment.

All 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs, including seven from BJP, have been staying away from the Imphal valley due to security reasons.

Chhattisgarh's Patan a paradise for bird watchers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Raipur

PATAN area in Chhattisgarh, the most closely watched battleground in the recently held assembly polls, is now witnessing incredible sighting of huge flocks of migratory birds, leaving the bird watchers thrilled and many including the visitors mesmerised.

The region, about 40 km from Raipur, with nature trails for around 35 species of migratory birds that arrived in Chhattisgarh after flying mammoth long-distance routes traversing many countries.

Bar Headed Goose, Northern Pintail, River Tern, Ruff, Ruddy Shelduck, Black-tailed Godwit, Whiskered Tern, Peregrine Falcon, Common Teal, Garganeys, Tufted duck, Siberian Stonechat among others have so far been traced.

"Patan has four water bodies, designated as a conservation zone. The State Biodiversity Board is developing it as a mega wetland complex ideally suited to be bird watching zone habitats for numerous migratory birds through the area. Patan gets glimpse of surprises", said a senior forest officer posted in

COVERING LONG-DISTANCE

35 species of migratory birds traced

Birds from over 24 Countries known to visit Chhattisgarh

OVER 70% of the state is under flyway route of migratory birds

Wetland region ideally suited for feeding and resting

Patan saw CM Baghel v/s his nephew Vijay Baghel in poll fray

Bar-headed Goose

Durg district where Patan is a rural constituency represented by the chief minister Bhupesh Baghel who contested against his nephew Vijay Baghel, BJP lok sabha MP.

Some of the birds stay for short duration to move on but good many are known to continue for the entire winter season.

Ornithologists are jubilant to watch the place visited by migratory birds. Wildlife life photographer and bird watcher Raju Verma, a resident of Pa-

tan, said, "Around 35 varieties have already been recorded in the region. It's a thrilling experience for the people".

The birds arriving in Chhattisgarh are mostly through the East Asian-Australasian flyway that covers over 70 percent of the state along the three different routes, said ornithologist Ravi Naidu from Bombay National History Society.

The birds arrived from the Euro-Siberian region which includes parts of Russia, China, Mongolia and Europe.

"Chhattisgarh is among the best stopovers that we have seen for migratory birds who arrive after covering their spectacular journeys from over two dozen countries. There are no natural wetlands in Chhattisgarh unlike in Gujarat or Maharashtra but the state has thousands of man-made wetlands. So some of the birds coming from as far as 8,000 km select ideal wetland for their feeding grounds and also as resting place", Naidu told this newspaper.

Guj tribal woman thrashed, tonsured, left half-naked by her lover's family

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA

@ Ahmedabad

A divorced tribal woman living in Vyara town of Gujarat's Tapi district was allegedly kidnapped, thrashed, tonsured, and left half naked on a roadside by her lover's family, police said on Saturday.

The 26-year-old woman, also the mother of a ten-year-old boy, got divorced over eight years ago and has been living as a single woman since then. According to police, year-and-half-ago, she allegedly fell in love with one Nirav Chaudhary, a resident of Borakhdi village and since last week, the duo started living together at a rented house in Vyara town.

However, Chaudhary's parents and relatives were unhappy over the relationship and their decision to live together. According to the police complaint, on Wednesday afternoon, she, along with Chaudhary and her friend Pratikbhai, decided to visit Buhari village for some personal work. However, on their way to the village

Death threat

The 26-year-old divorced woman has been living with her alleged lover Nirav Chaudhary since last week. On Wednesday, she was allegedly kidnapped by Chaudhary's parents and their acquaintances and taken to a secluded place where she was assaulted, abused, ashamed and left half naked on a roadside with a warning to be killed next time she is again seen with Chaudhary.

near Kapura Square, they were allegedly stopped near Kapura Square by Chaudhary's parents, identified as Sunitaben and Ajitbhai, one Snehalbhai and an unidentified person. All the four came on motorcycles.

While, Sunitaben and Ajitbhai took their son with them and fled from the spot, Snehalbhai and the fourth person asked the woman to come with them and promised to drop back to her house in Vyara. However, the duo took her to Khushalpur village

where Chaudhary's parents were already waiting for her. Chaudhary's parents quickly took control of her and allegedly dragged her into the bushes where they abused and thrashed her with a stick.

Moreover, her lover's mother Sunitaben, who was carrying a pair of scissors, cut her hair and pulled out the jeans she was wearing and left her half-naked on a road in the village.

Sunitaben even threatened to kill her if she ever again saw her approach her son. The victim woman managed to inform her ordeal to her parents and location via telephone. She was later rescued by them.

The victim then approached the Vyara police station and registered her complaint. Later, a case was lodged against Chaudhary's parents, Snehalbhai and the unknown person under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including assault, outraging the modesty of women and criminal intimidation.



PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that **Mrs. Vimla Lalvani W/o Mr. Asha Lalvani [Owner]** Rkt No.203, Phase-1, Jade Garden, Sadashali, Devarahalli, Bangalore Rural is the absolute owner of the property mortgaged described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property'.

It is represented by the Owner that in transit she has lost/misplaced the following original document of the Schedule Property and even after the sincere efforts she was not able to trace the said original document.

(i). Sale Deed dated 23/08/1993 registered as Document No. 1115/1993-94, Book I, Volume 1488, pages 95 to 104 in the office of the Sub Registrar Devarahalli, Bangalore.

Further the Owner represent that she has lodged a complaint on 21/11/2023 in the Jurisdictional Police Station regarding the above said loss of original document vide Lost Report No. 0816773/2023. In view of the representation of the Owner as supra, in the event if any person finds or is in possession (lawful or otherwise) of the said documents the same should be returned to the undersigned and/or in the alternate if any claim or right is being made thereof the same should be notified to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice else it will be presumed that the said document is permanently lost.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of vacant Site/Plot bearing Site No.203 (now bearing K.S.No.145/20) measuring 5980 Square Feet / 556 Square Meters being a portion of converted land measuring 36 Acres 94 Guntas comprised in Survey Nos.1932, 1922, 1921, 201, 202 and 205 (bearing K.S.No.145), (28 Acres 34 Guntas), Survey Nos.1931, 194 bearing K.S.No.155) (3 Acres 25 Guntas) and 206/3 (bearing K.S.No.207) (3 Acres 25 Guntas) situated at Sadashali Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devarahalli Taluk, Bangalore North and bounded on the:

East By: Site bearing K.S.No.145/7 and measuring on that side 24.70 meters.
West By: Internal Feeder road and measuring on that side 24.70 meters.
North By: Site bearing K.S.No.145/21 and measuring on that side 22.50 meters.
South By: Site bearing K.S.No.145/19 and measuring on that side 22.50 meters.

Yamuna S. Partner
U & V Law Chambers, Unit No.13B-106
13th Floor, Wewok, Saltapura Satlha Magnific, Old Madras Road, Bengaluru - 560018.
25th November, 2023 Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SMT.G.LAKSHMI W/o Smt.C.Govindaraju** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and she has lost the original Gift Deed dated 1/3/2010 bearing Document No.4333 / 2009-10, Book-1, stored in CD 35 executed by Smt.N.Sharavamma in favour of Smt.C.Govindaraju & Smt.G.Lakshmi registered in the office of sub registrar, Begur, pertaining to the schedule property. In case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under signed and handover the same within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Eastern portion of Vant Site No.32, V.P.Katha No.62, Assessment No.62/3, situated at Parappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring east to west 20 feet and north to south 40 feet, totally 800 Sq.ft, comes under SBMP limits and bounded on: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Remaining portion of the same Site No.22, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.33.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Near NR Colony Bus Stand, Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019, Cell # 9341261700

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEET/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/JEE(O)/AAEE-2/F-87-packages(2)/23-24/6836-39 Date: 24.11.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH-E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/JEE(O)/AAEE-2/23-24/EPR-08/CALL-2 Dated 27.10.2023 for tender for providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at various Stations of 66/11KV stations in the jurisdictions of BMAZ North Circle.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink e-Procurement-KPTCL or to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 27.11.2023. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru – 560009, PH : 080-22386686.

NATIONAL POWER TRAINING INSTITUTE
Power Systems Training Institute
(Ministry of Power, Govt. of India)
Bangalore: 560070

NPTI (PSTI), Bangalore Announces

26 Week PGDC in TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS (Batch XXXIII)

Eligibility for PGDC in TnD: Bachelor of Engineering or equivalent in “Electrical” / “Electrical & Electronics” / “Power Engineering”.

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Eligibility for PDC in TnD: Three Years Regular Diploma in “Electrical”.

Objective of the course: This is a job oriented Graduate Engineer Program for those who desire to make a career in the power sector. On successfully undergoing this course the Graduate Engineers will find immense opportunities of employment in Indian Power Sector.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Issue of Prospectus 26.11.2023

Last Date for receipt of application forms 12.01.2024

Display of merit list in website 12.01.2024

Counseling & Admission 17, 18, 19 January, 2024

Commencement of the Course 22.01.2024

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Director & Head of Institute
National Power Training Institute-PSTI,
Subramanyapura Road, Banashankari-II Stage, Near Yarrab Nagar Bus stop, Bangalore-560 070 Tel. 080-26713758 Email : pstinpti.training@gmail.com

For more information, please browse:
www.nptibangalore.com

Contact: 9900097375, piyali.npti@gov.in
6362609386, madhaviprasannak@gmail.com

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Deshpande Nagar Branch(40493), Hubballi - 580029

Publication of Notice regarding possession of Property U/S 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **STATE BANK OF INDIA, Deshpande Nagar, Hubballi** for an amount and interest thereon.

Name of Borrower/ Partners/ Guarantors/ Owner of property	Description of the property mortgaged / charged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
M/s. Aishwarya Chem Tech Enterprises Proprietor : Mr. Suman Suresh Bonageri Flat No.: 14, 2nd Floor D Block, Shinde Complex, Neelgiri Road, Hubballi -580029, Dist.: Dhawad Copy to the Guarantor Mr. Suresh V. Bonageri No. 103, Unique Apartment, Deshpande Nagar, Hubballi -580029 CC A/c. No.: 40539999715	All the part and parcel of immovable property of residential Land and Building at Site bearing No. 4193 Carved in the SY No.: 16, 17,18,19 of Gerahalli Village and SY No.: 101, 103/1, 103/2, 104/1, 104/2 105 and 106 of Hosakere Halli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South, Taluk by Vishwa Bharati, House Building Co-Op Society Ltd. BBMP Ward No.: 54, Srinivas Nagar, 4th Phase GRI Nagar, Banashankari Nagar, 3rd Stage, Bengaluru Measuring East to West (45+44.6)/2 ft., North to South (50+66)/2 ft., in all measuring 2598 sq.ft. standing in the name of Suresh Venkappa Bonageri (1st charge to loan against property sanctioned to in the personal name of Mr. Suresh Venkappa Bonageri)	30-06-2023	22-11-2023	Rs. 2,19,11,909.51 Rupees Two Crore Nineteen Lakh Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Nine and Fifty-one Paise + interest from 30-06-2023 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc.

Search Report : Verified that the sale/deed dated 02-11-2012 executed by M Ramu in favour of Suresh Venkappa Bonageri Registered as document no: CMP-1-04784/2018-19. Blok No. 1, CD No.: CMPD66, dated 02-11-2012, in the office of sub-registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, is genuine as the particulars shown in the deeds tally with the entries recorded in the Said Office

Date: 25-11-2023
Place: Hubballi

Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER
State Bank of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my clients have agreed to purchase the e Schedule Property from its sole and absolute owner **Mr.Susarla Bhagavat Sastry, S/o late Susarla Vishnu Sarma, residing at: No.31, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600 083.**

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Villa Plot bearing No.A-10, Khatha No.390/A/10/138, E- Khata No.152900402000400645, being portion of residential land bearing Sy.No.21/3, measuring East to West (121 + 119)/2 feet and North to South 80 feet, totally measuring 9600 Sq.ft., together with a Duplex house thereon, situated in 'Eagleton –The Golf Village', Billakempanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagaram Taluk, Ramanagaram District and bounded on:

East by : Golf course
West by : Road
North by : Villa No.A-09
South by : Villa No.A-11

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

Registered Office: Indian Raygun Compound, Varval, Gujarat 362266
Branch Office: Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Star Avenue, No.1/78, 3rd Floor, 6th Cross Street, Victoria Layout, Victoria Road, Beside Vijaya Bank, Bangalore-560025
Contact No.: 1ABHFL: Authorized Officer Mr. Ravi Kumar Yadav, Contact No: 91789965229
Chirag Lokhande Contact No: 919773758208. 2.Auction Service Provider (ASP):-
M/s. Globe Tech Infosystems Private Limited - Mr. Samir Chakravorty

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, will be put to sale by auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 11-12-2023, for recovery of Rs. 40,46,527.59 (Rupees Forty Lak Forty Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven and Fifty Nine Paise Only) as on 15-10-2022 and further interest and other expenses thereon till the date of realization, due to Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor from the Borrowers namely Vinay A, Anantha M, Mid Night Food Point.

The reserve price will be Rs.45,14,400/- (Rupees Forty Five Lacs Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be Rs. 4,51,440/- (Rupees Four Lacs Fifty One Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Only). The last date of EMD deposit is 08-12-2023. The date for inspection of the said property is fixed on 07-12-2023 between 11:00 am to 04:00 pm.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Site No.17, Katha No. 625, In Property No. 50/3, Situated At Mahadevapura Village, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Comes Under Jurisdiction Of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, Measuring East To West 30 Feet, And North To South 40 Feet In All Measuring 1200 Square Feet, And Bounded On:- East: Site No. 16, West: Site No. 18, North: Site No. 10, South: Road

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (viii) Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor's website i.e. <https://homefinance.adityabirlacapital.com/properties-for-auction-under-sarfaesi-act> or <https://BestAuctionDeal.com>

Date: 26-11-2023
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer,
Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited

QuoteExpress

PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES

ROBERT H SCHULLER

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Corporate Office : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru. Vi.Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032
Branch Address : Municipal No.45, (old Nos. 458 &51), Second Floor, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560027

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrower/Mortgagor is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and that the Notice Under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower's has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its rights under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No.'s. & Name and address of the Borrower/s	Loan Amount(s) in Rs.	Date of Demand Notice & Total Amount Outstanding
01.	Loan Account No.'s. : X0HEBAN00002132074 (1) Shankar K V (Applicant), 53/45, 11th Main Road, Padmanabha Nagar, Bangalore South, Karnataka-560070 (2) Alifa Creations (Co-Aplicant) , No.145, 2 Floor, Next to HD Petrol Bunk, 5th Main Road, Chamaraipete, Bangalore South, Karnataka-560018 (3) Dr.Prabhakar Kore Convention Center (Co-Aplicant) , No.114B, Tumkur Main Service Road, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560058 (4) Ranjitha N J (Co-Aplicant) , 53/45, 11th Main Road, Padmanabha Nagar, Bangalore South, Karnataka-560070.	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	11.11.2023 & 10.11.2023 together with interest thereon.
	Schedule 'A' (Schedule of Property) : All the piece and parcel propertybearing Site No.19 In Sy.No.19/3, 27/2, and 28/1, Situated at Kadrenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Layout Formed by Kanaka Gruha Nirmana Sahakara Sangha Niyamitha, Presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Ward No.181, PID No.55/709/19 And Bounded On : East by : Park, West by : Road, North by : Site No.18, South by : Site No.20, Measuring East to West: 40, 1/4 Ft. And North to South: 29. 1/4 Ft In Total 1177.30 Ft. together with the constructed building.		
02.	Loan Account No.'s. : (1) X0HEBAN00002143189 & (2) X0HEBAN00002829041 (1) Mohammed Abrar A (Applicant), No.06, 1st A Main Road, Eramma Layout, Bannerghatta Road, South Adugodi, Karnataka 560030 (2) Nazima Tabassum M (Co-Aplicant) , No.06, 1st A Main Road, Eramma Layout, Bannerghatta Road, South, Adugodi, Karnataka 560030 (3) M/s. Tajmahal Silk Koti (Co-Aplicant) , No.47, Chowdeshwari Temple Road, Bus Stop, Bangalore 560002.	(1)Rs.50,00,000/- (2) Rs.21,00,000/-	10.11.2023 & Rs. 54,93,855/- as on 10.11.2023 together with interest thereon.
	Schedule 'A' (Schedule of Property) : All that piece and parcel of property bearing new BMP No.37/6, Old No.16/1, A2B/37, Situated At 151 A Main Road, Eramma Layout, Chinnayyapalya, Lakasandra Dakale, Ward No.63, Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, Ward No.63, Presently Within the limits of BBMP and Bounded On: East by Mico Property And Adugodi Extension, West by : House No.29, North by Mico Property, South by Muneer House And 40 X 50 Ft Common Passage leading to Road. Measuring East to West: 60Ft., And North to South: 31.1 Ft and building Constructed thereon.		
03.	Loan Account No.'s. : (1) HE02GAL00000005453 (2) X0HEGAL00003397438 (1) Venkatesh Naidu K (Applicant), No.47/48, 2nd Crs., 18th Main Narayana Gowda Lyt, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore South- 560029, (2) Thejavathi N (Co-Aplicant), No.47/48, 2nd Crs., 18th Main Narayana Gowda Lyt, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore South-560029, (3) Lakshmi Bharrathi K (Co-Aplicant) , No.47/48, 2nd Crs., 18th Main Narayana Gowda Lyt, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore South- 560029, (4) Sri Lakshmi Developers (Co-Aplicant) , No.25, Ground Floor, 18th Main 6th Cross, Narayanagowda Layout, Tavarekere, Bangalore Karnataka -560029.	(1) Rs. 35,00,000/- (2) Rs.1,78,00,000/-	14.11.2023 & Rs.2,07,74,581/- as on 14.11.2023 together with interest thereon.
	Schedule 'A' (Schedule of Property) : All that piece and parcel of property bearing Gramthana House List No.47 and 48, Khatha No.8/1, BBMP New No.71 (Old No.47 & 48/8/1) Situated at Thavarekere Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently Comes Under the limits of BBMP And Bounded on: East by Property No.46, West by Road, North by Property Of Others, (P/I Property), South by Property No.43 & 44, Measuring East to West 60 Feet and North to South 40 Feet In Total Measuring 2400 Sq.Ft. Along with the Building Constructed thereon. Within the Registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office.		
04.	Loan Account No. & Name and address of the Borrower/s Loan Account No.'s. : (1) HE02BAN00000008656 (2) X0HEGAL00002953180 (1) Sridevi Manoj (Applicant), No.20, 4th Main, T.C Palya Main Road, Near Koshys Hospital Ramamurthy Nagar, Doorvaninagar-560016. (2) Manoj Kumar Chundakandy (Co-Aplicant) , No.20, 4th Main, T.C Palya Main Road, Near Koshys Hospital Ramamurthy Nagar, Doorvaninagar -560016. (3) Mis.Mira Innovative (Co-Aplicant) , No.20, 4th Main, T.C Palya Main Road, Near Koshys Hospital Ramamurthy Nagar, Doorvaninagar-560016. (4) Manoj Raghavan (Co-Aplicant) , No.20, 4th Main, T.C Palya Main Road, Near Koshys Hospital Ramamurthy Nagar, Doorvaninagar -560016.	(1) Rs. 7,00,000/- (2) Rs.38,00,000/-	10.11.2023 & Rs.38,84,625/- as on 10.11.2023 together with interest thereon.
	Schedule 'A' (Schedule of Property) : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.20, Khatha No.369/1-132, New No.219, Situated at Kowdenahalli @ Ramamurthy Nagar, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk Now Presently Comes Under BBMP Limits And Bounded On : East by 20 Road, West by : House Site No.25, North by : House Site No.21, South by : House Site No.19, Measuring 45 X30 Feet,Along with the building Constructed thereon.		

Date: 26.11.2023
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No : Re-275 to 278/SE/PHC/MVPA

JMM-Idukki District-(275) WSSS to Konnathady-Package V-Construction of OHSR at Nadukani and Supply and Laying Clear water Pumping Main-General Civil Work (276)WSSS to Manikulam - Construction of 11 MLD Plant at manikulam- 277)WSSS to Konnathady-Construction of SteelTanks at Kurusukuthr, Inchathotti and Karmala and Supply and Laying Clear water Pumping Main, Gravity main and Pumpssets. (278)CARWSS to Alakode -Shifting and replacement of pipe lines in Chelachuvadu Vannappuram road. EMD : Rs. 50,000/- to 5,00,000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 5,515/- to 16,540/-, Last Date for submitting Tender : 04-12-2023, 04.00 pm. Phone : 04852835637
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.tenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-CL-6-1689-2023-24
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED

E-TENDERS

Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited invites E-Tenders for the following Projects

Sl.No.	Name of Project
1	Tender ID - 2023, SCTLT 617140_3 Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in AED area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram -Pumping Station Road ID 45, Last Date - 04.12.2023 Tender ID2023 SCTLT 625565_1
2	Supplying and fixing of 63 nos free-standing Popup tent with display tables, and light provisions, Design Manufacture On-Site Supply Maintenance Support. Last Date - 04.12.2023

(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LTD.

UCO BANK
(Govt. of India Undertaking)

Bangalore City Branch (0024), 13/22, K G Road, Ground Floor, Bangalore 560009

GOLD LOAN AUCTION NOTICE

The following borrowers have availed jewel loans and failed to redeem the same within the stipulated time in spite of repeated notices. If they fail to redeem the pledged jewels, the same will be sold in public auction on 14th December 2023 at 11:00 AM in our branch premises in the below noted address. This public notice is also a notice to the borrower and applies to the legal heirs of the deceased borrowers. If any A copy of this notice is sent by registered post to all the borrowers noted below duly informing them about the date, time and place of auction in case they fail to redeem the gold within this period. The Bank reserves its right to reject any bid without assigning any reason whatsoever, Participate in the bid subject to rules and regulations of the bank. Persons wishing to participate in the above bid have to deposit a sum of Rs 25% of the Outstanding balance at our Bank in the form of DD in favour of UCO Bank and have to carry valid ID proof (Aadhaar & PAN). After the auction, the full amount has to be paid within 7 days by the successful bidder, to get the material otherwise the EMD amount will be forfeited by the Bank. Branch manager reserves the right to cancel/postpone the auction or any parts of the auction without any notice/assigning any reason.

Account No	Date of Pledge / Loan	Name and address of the Borrower	Gross Weight in grams	Amount due as on 31-05-2023 (In Rs.)
00240610036044	17.03.2022	Mr. Soundararaj, 42, Cross, Bhanganagar, Shivamogga, Karnataka 577202	46.40	Rs. 1,67,553.00 + Interest due from 31.05.2023

Amount Outstanding to be added with up to date interest & others Charges. That after auction full amount has to be paid within 7 days.

Place: Bangalore **Branch Manager, UCO Bank**

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Bid No.: E-83/2023-24 **E-TENDERS** Dated: 17.11.2023

E-Tender are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendor must have Class III Digital Signature and registrations on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence S.No.- Tender No. (Due Date), Description and quantity. S.No.1, 09231238A, (11.12.2023), Circuit Breaker DCL Control-3AMP to PL No. 18310291, 05 Nos.; 2, 09231247C, (11.12.2023), Plate: TMS-CM10-50 Yell Note, to PL No. 29610928, 13208 Nos.; 3, 09231050A, (12.12.2023), Silicon Diode (Series), to PL No. 18380116, 41 Nos.; 4, 09221366B, (12.12.2023), Circuit Breaker Heat Light 35 AMP, to PL No. 18310230, 26 Nos.; 5, 09221354A, (15.12.2023), Switch - Rotary Snap, to PL No. 18310187, 33 Nos.; 6, 09231122A, (15.12.2023), Circuit Breaker with Aux switch-30 AMP Ref. Chart, to PL No. 18310679, 37 Nos.; 7, 09221102D, (15.12.2023), Circuit Breaker Local Control 30 AMPs, to PL No. 18310242, 56 Nos.; 8, 09221398C, (19.12.2023), Circuit Module - TDP, to PL No. 18120179, 10 Nos.; 9, 09231113A, (20.12.2023), Armature and Rectifier Mounting ASM, to PL No. 18100260, 02 Nos.; 10, 09231058A, (11.12.2023), Silicon Diode (Bridge), to PL No. 18380104, 36 Nos.; 11, 09231055A, (12.12.2023), Silicon Diode, to PL No. 18380062, 20 Nos.; 12, 10231878, (20.12.2023), Injector Control Shaft ASM-RB, to PL No. 16050472, 14 Nos.; 13, 05235250, (13.12.2023), Spare parts for EOT crane, 1 Set.; 14, 05235085B (14.12.2023), Sinumerik 840 DSL, 1 Nos.; 15, 05235210 (21.12.2023), (i) Cylinder Assembly, Part No. 57058, 1 Nos.; (ii) Rear Bearing plate, part No. 57056, 5 Nos.; (iii) Front Bearing, part No. 57057, 5 Nos.; (iv) Lever for 3/16" Model, Part No. 56846, 10 Nos.; (v) Tap valve, part No. 01472, 10 Nos.; (vi) Blade for rotor part No. 57114, 20 Set.; (vii) Rotor part No. 57113, 5 Nos.; (viii) Idle Bushing part No. 01494, 5 Nos.; (ix) Valve Stem part No. 01477, 15 Nos.; 16, 05235259 (22.12.2023), Different type of O ring, 1 Set.; 17, 05235260 (27.12.2023), (i) X Vulcan punch Round 10.312MM, 10 Nos. (ii) B 114 Round DIE 10.312, CLO.7MM, 10 Nos.; (iii) Stripper for Rectangular punch station C63x30, 5 Nos. (iv) Stripper for Rectangular punch station E6x50, 5 Nos.; (v) Stripper for Round punch 8 size 10 MM, 4 Nos.; 18, 05235263 (28.12.2023), Steel Wire Rope Sing for Hoisting, 04 Nos.; 19, 07230184A (06.01.2024), Safety flooring Sheet, to PL No. 29170552, 1053 Mtrs.; 20, 07231137 (13.12.2023), Epoxy Zinc Phosphate Primer, to PL No. 77070112, 2620 Ltrs.; 21, 08231111A, Advertise Tender, (15.12.2023) Bolt (PL No. 19019026) Qty. 957 Nos.

The details of above tenders are available on www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in.

PRO/BLW/S-48 **PCMM**

[f b w /blwvaranasi](https://blwvaranasi) "Website : <http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in>"

NOTICE

REQUIREMENT OF VENDORS FOR RUNNING VARIOUS SHOPS IN HQTC (U), AF CAMPUS

Commanding Officer Head Quarter Training Command (Unit) Air Force invites applications from interested vendors/persons for running the following SI Shops in HQ TC (U), IAF campus. Preference will be given to Ex-Servicemen, dependents, war widows then civilians who are experienced in running shops in Defence area.

(a) Mochi Shop (Contract period from 01 Jan 24 to 31 Dec 24)

(b) Fruit & Vegetable Shop (Contract period from 01 Jan 24 to 31 Dec 24)

Tender forms may be collected from Unit Admin (Service Institute section) by paying Rs 200/- (Non-Refundable) from 0900 hrs to 1400 hrs from 22 Nov 23 to 04 Dec 23. Tender forms duly filled are to be dropped in the tender box, kept at Main Guard Room HQTC, IAF latest by 1100 hrs on 05 Dec 23. For further details, please contact Service Institute Office. Tele: 23411081, Ext: 7626, Ph: 8685000403.



9 KILLED

in Syrian government forces' shelling of the village of Qawqafeen, in Idlib province on Saturday

Beijing	29	16	SNY	Los Angeles	26	17	LC
Colombo	29	24	LC	Melbourne	25	12	HR
Dhaka	32	27	SNY	Moscow	21	8	HR
Dubai	39	31	SNY	New York	26	16	LC
Houston	31	23	SNY	Singapore	32	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	17	SNY	Toronto	19	11	LC
London	24	18	LC	Washington	27	14	SNY

GLOBAL
WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain
TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Hamas delays hostage handover on Day 2

Accuses Israeli side of not adhering to terms of truce agreement

GAZA STRIP

THE armed wing of Hamas said on Saturday it was delaying the handover of a second group of hostages due to be released under a truce deal until Israel "adheres to the terms of the agreement".

The entry of humanitarian aid to the north of the Gaza Strip and the selection criteria for the liberation of prisoners were the issues in question, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades said in a statement.

The group of hostages seized in the Hamas attacks on southern Israel on October 7 was due to be handed over on the second day of a four-day truce agreement between Israel and the Islamist movement, with Palestinian prisoners being released in exchange at a ratio of three to one. A Hamas source had told AFP that the handover of 14 hostages to the Red Cross had begun, then said the transfer process had been halted. An Israeli official said the hostages had not yet been handed over to the Red Cross. "Israel has not violated the agreement," an Israeli source told AFP.

The first exchange of 13 Israelis taken hostages for 39 Palestinian prisoners concluded successfully on Friday evening evoking mixed reactions on both sides. It is expected that 14 Israelis will be released later on Saturday. The Israel Prison Service said that 42 Palestinian



Image grab from a handout video shows a Hamas member gesturing to a hostage before handing her over to officials from the Red Cross on Friday | AFP

REAL CHANCE OF EXTENDING CEASEFIRE: BIDEN

US President Joe Biden said Friday's release of a first group of hostages taken by Hamas was just a "start" and that there were "real" chances to extend a temporary truce in Gaza. He welcomed the way the start of the process had gone as the four-day truce to facilitate the hostage and prisoner releases held. "This morning I've been engaged with my team as we began the first couple days of implementing this deal. It's only a start, but so far it's gone well," he said. Asked about the American women and children hostages who could be released as part of the deal, Biden said he did not know when they would be set free but "we expect it to occur."

prisoners are to be released as part of the agreement between Israel and Hamas, three prisoners for each Israeli that it let go. In Israel, people expressed satisfaction at the return of some of their relatives but concerns over those still in captivity. There are also those who oppose the whole mechanism adopted arguing for continued full-fledged military operation to release all the hostages, and not to give the enemy respite to reorganise itself.

Islamist Hamas, which has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2007, led a deadly attack on Israel on October 7 killing about 1,200 people and taking around 240 hostages prompting Israel to declare a full-fledged war in Gaza which has seen massive destruction in the choked coastal Strip and loss of more than 14,000 lives as per the Gaza Health ministry. Israel has released a list of 300 prisoners that can be set free on the basis of the 1:3 exchange method. Agencies

Emotional reunions as hostages meet families

TEL AVIV

EMOTIONAL scenes unfolded as Israeli children and women, held captive by Hamas militants in Gaza for a gruelling 49 days, were released and finally reunited with their families under a Qatar, Egyptian and US brokered deal.

Ohad Munder, 9, in a video released by Schneider Children's Medical Centre (SCMC) can be seen running and hugging his father in a tight embrace for the first time since he was released by Hamas from the Gaza Strip on Friday. Ohad was freed along with his 55-year-old mother Keren Munder, and 78-year-old grandmother Ruti Munder. Ruti's husband Avraham Munder still remains in Gaza in Hamas' custody. Ohad turned nine while being held in Gaza, and events were held across Israel to mark the day. A keen solver of Rubik's cubes, people campaigning for the boy's release created his portrait out of the puzzle.

Images circulating on social media on Saturday showed Ohad solving a Rubik's cube in the hospital as soldiers from the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) looked on.

Emilia Alony 5, who was released with her mother Danielle as part of a temporary cease-fire deal between Hamas



A videograb shows nine-year-old Ohad Munder, who was freed by Hamas on Friday, running towards his father | AFP

and Israel, was reunited with her grandma. In photos released by the SCMS, Emilia can be seen in a tight embrace with her grandmother. The two were visiting Danielle's sister and her family at Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7. Sharon Alony Cunio, 33, and her husband David Cunio, 34, and their twin three-year-old daughters, Yuli and Emma, are still being held hostages in Gaza.

In an emotional video, Ohad's brother Roy Zichri Munder, thanked the IDF for its role in releasing his family members and all the citizens for their "hugs and support without which we wouldn't have been able to hold up for these 49 days". "It is very important for me to say that we are not celebrating today. We are happy but not celebrating as we have more hostages and we need to continue with our campaign," Roy said. PTI

Space race heating up on the Korean peninsula

NORTH KOREA CLAIMED WEDNESDAY TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PUT ITS FIRST MILITARY SURVEILLANCE SATELLITE INTO ORBIT, WITH THE SOUTH ALSO PREPARING TO SEND UP ITS FIRST SPY SATELLITE LATER THIS MONTH. THE TWO LAUNCH ATTEMPTS, SET TO COME IN SUCH QUICK SUCCESSION, APPEAR TO BE THE BEGINNINGS OF A SPACE RACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

EYE IN THE SKY

North Korea first tried -- and failed -- to launch a satellite in 1998. In 2021, leader Kim Jong Un made developing a military spy satellite a key regime goal

Pyongyang wants to monitor areas of strategic interest, including South Korea and Guam, experts say

RUSSIAN ROLE

Seoul has warned Russia is providing Kim with technical advice, in exchange for arms transfers for use in Ukraine

Analysts say Russia's role appears to be mainly in the "software", given the short time span from the Kim-Putin summit to the third launch

WHAT ABOUT SOUTH KOREA?

South Korea does not have its own military reconnaissance satellites and relies on the United States to help it monitor North Korea's activities



Seoul's finalised plan to put its own domestically built spy satellite into orbit was recently unveiled, with a launch aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket set for November 30

Experts say that having its own military spy satellite holds significant importance for Seoul, especially considering that North Korea enshrined in law the right to preemptively use nuclear weapons last year

Kim reviews pics of US bases taken by North's spy sat

SEOUL

NORTH Korean state media said on Saturday leader Kim Jong Un reviewed images taken by his country's new spy satellite of a US naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and "major target" sites across South Korea.

Pyongyang successfully put a military spy satellite into orbit this week, but Seoul said it was too early to determine if the satellite was functioning as the North claims. Experts have said putting a working reconnaissance satellite into orbit would improve North Korea's intelligence-gathering capabilities, particularly over South Korea, and provide crucial data in any military conflict.

Pyongyang previously claimed, within hours of the Tuesday launch, that Kim was shown photos of US military bases in Guam taken by the satellite, named "Malligyeong-1". On Saturday, the North claimed Kim inspected images taken as the satellite passed over Hawaii at around 5.00 am (2000 GMT Friday), including those of "a naval base in the Pearl Harbor; the Hickam air-force base in Honolulu", according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim also reviewed the satellite's images of the South Korean port city of Busan, which Pyongyang said were taken at



A rocket carrying the reconnaissance satellite 'Malligyeong-1' being launched from North Phyongan province | AFP

around 10.00 am on Saturday. The photos included ones of the US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, Pyongyang claimed.

The carrier had arrived at the Busan Naval Base on Tuesday, according to Seoul's military. Kim also reviewed "major target areas in the enemy region" — referring to the South — including Jinhae, Busan, Ulsan, Pohang, Daegu and Gangneung, KCNA added. In an earlier report on Saturday, KCNA said Kim had the day before reviewed the satellite's images of "major target regions" in the South, including its capital and cities hosting US military bases. The Friday's images also included some areas of North Korea, it added. AFP

Ukraine says Russia launched record 75 drones

KYIV

UKRAINE said on Saturday it had downed 74 out of 75 Russian attack drones overnight, in what Kyiv said was the biggest drone attack since the start of the invasion.

The Ukrainian army said Russia had launched a "record number" of Iranian-made Shahed drones, the majority of which were downed over the capital, Kyiv, causing power cuts in the centre of the city as temperatures dipped below freezing.

The drone attack came as Ukraine marked Holodomor Remembrance Day, commemorating the 1930s starvation of millions in Ukraine under Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.



Rescuers working to extinguish a fire at the site of a drone attack in Kyiv | AP

"The enemy launched a record number of attack drones at Ukraine! The main direction of the attack is Kyiv," the com-

mander of Ukraine's air force, General Mykola Oleshchuk, said. The air force said it had downed "74 out of 75" Shahed

Indian-origin student assaulted in Australia

MELBOURNE

AN Indian-origin student in Australia is in a medically induced coma after he was assaulted and a suspect has been taken into custody and charged with criminal assault, according to a media report. The student, who has not been identified, is in his 20s. He is pursuing a master's degree at the Univer-

sity of Tasmania.

The incident took place on November 5 at a precinct in Tasmania and the victim had "extra jural bleeding" that caused his brain to shift, Sydney-based Special Broadcasting Service reported. According to reports, his right lung collapsed and he had to undergo brain surgery, a procedure lasting several hours.

Benjamin Dodge Collings, a 25-year-old resident of Lenah Valley, was taken into custody by police shortly after the event and charged with criminal code assault, an offence carrying a maximum sentence of 21 years in prison. Collings was granted a magistrate bail and is scheduled to return to court on December 4 to respond to the charges. PTI

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on [@SCRRailwaysIndia](#)
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

Tender Notice No. : 47/2023,
Dated : 24-11-2023

SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS

E-Procurement Tender Notice

The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](#) and submit their offers online. **The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website.** Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is **14:30 hours** of the Due date of the Tender. "For all indigenous offers, Earnest Money Deposit will be accepted only via online system as available on [www.ireps.gov.in](#)"

Tender No.	Brief Description
LY 235706A	Supply and installation of Aerosol based Fire Detection.
60.23.7586	Procurement of various types of motor, valves etc. for the use of Track Machines.
60.23.7580	Procurement of various types of motor & pumps for the use of Track Machines.
60.23.PT167	RC for Supply Hook Bolt of 28 mm dia with square neck of length 400mm.
60.23.8145	Return Filter as Per JSC K a l u g a p u t m a s h No.RSC 410VFIS sub RKT 0800 UMC.
60.23.6395	Procurement of various types of rollers for the use of track machine.
25.23.2774	Carbon Brush for Traction motor TAO - 659 as for RDSO. EL.BS.002.
77.23.1024	Paint synthetic Enamel interior white.
65.23.5053A	Manufacture, supply CNC hydraulic press brake bending machine.
77.23.1030A	Paint Enamel synthetic exterior finishing black.
60.23.7075	Manufacture and supply of PSC Sleepers RDSO Drg.No.T-8970.
30.23.3650A	EQUALISING stay for lower spring beam.
60.23.8370	Procurement of Various conveyor belts for the use of track machine.
17.23.1829	Overhauling kit KBIL part no.78775-2004.
29.23.5008	Driving Display Unit for TCN based VCU suitable for BHEL make IGBT.
17.23.1825A	OVERHAULING KIT CONTROL BP KBPL NO.787321-2004.
72.23.1243B	Insert Carbide to ISO Design LINUX.

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening:
SL.No. 01 on dt.06-12-2023. SL.No. 02 on dt.11-12-2023. SL.No. 03 & 04 on dt.13-12-2023. SL.No. 05 to 10 on dt.14-12-2023. SL.No. 11 on dt.15-12-2023. SL.No. 12 & 13 on dt.18-12-2023. SL.No. 14 on dt.19-12-2023. SL.No. 15 on dt.21-12-2023. SL.No. 16 on dt.22-12-2023. SL.No. 17 on dt.05-12-2023.

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs.25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager,
A1766
Secunderabad.

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [https://www.ireps.gov.in](#) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

INDONESIA

NEW PATROLS TO STOP BOATS WITH REFUGEES

Indonesian police and fishermen said on Saturday they have begun patrolling parts of the country's westernmost province to prevent Rohingya refugees from landing on its shores. Thousands from the mostly Muslim minority risk their lives each year making sea journeys from refugee camps in Bangladesh, often in flimsy boats, to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia. As sailing conditions eased this month, more than half a dozen boats carrying hundreds of Rohingya people arrived in Aceh, including some that locals tried to turn back to sea

ASIA MATTERS

THAILAND

KEY TOURISM TARGET MISSED

Thailand's tourism sector is set to miss the target of 4 million Chinese tourist arrivals this year, *The Bangkok Post* reported. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is now projecting that about 3.4-3.5 million tourists will arrive from China this year while the target for tourist arrivals from the mainland next year is 8.2 million, the website reported

SINGAPORE

EXHIBITION ON INDIAN COMMUNITY

An exhibition of more than 200 artefact on the heritage, culture and identity of the Malayali community in Singapore opened on Saturday. The exhibition explores the diasporic concept of home through the eyes of Malayalis. The exhibition — *Ente Veedu, My Home: Malayalees in Singapore* — is the first ever to focus exclusively on the community. Tracing the journey of the Malayalis — from Kerala, migration to Singapore, and settlement and contributions to the nation — the exhibition also reflects the community's evolving notions of home and identity.

Officer who killed Floyd stabbed in jail

WASHINGTON

DEREK Chauvin, the US police officer whose murder of George Floyd sparked massive racial justice protests in 2020, was stabbed in prison on Friday, *The New York Times* reported citing unnamed sources.

Chauvin knelt on the 46-year-old Black man's neck for more than nine minutes on a Minneapolis street despite the dying man's pleas. Floyd's cries of "I can't breathe" were a rallying call for demonstrators domestically and abroad.

The US Federal Bureau of Prisons confirmed an assault to AFP without naming the person wounded. "An incarcerated individual was assaulted at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Tucson," in the southwestern state of Arizona, it said in a statement.

"Responding employees initiated life-saving measures for one incarcerated individual," the statement said,



Derek Chauvin

adding that the wounded individual was sent to a local hospital "for further treatment and evaluation."

Chauvin survived the attack, according to a New York Times source. Chauvin was found guilty of second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in 2021, and sentenced to 22 and a half years in prison.

The incident was caught on video — providing a drastically different version of events than the initial police news release, which simply stated "officers were able to

get the suspect into handcuffs and noted he appeared to be suffering medical distress." A Justice Department probe into the Minneapolis police, the findings of which were published in June 2023, said that officers in the department routinely resorted to violent and racist practices, "including unjustified deadly force."

The city of Minneapolis, in the midwestern state of Minnesota, also settled a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the Floyd family, agreeing to pay his relatives \$27 million. Chauvin appealed his second-degree murder conviction, which was rejected by the US Supreme Court earlier this month.

"At the end of the day, the whole trial, including sentencing, was a sham," he said.

But at his sentencing hearing, he spoke little, "due to some additional legal matters at hand." "I do want to give my condolences to the Floyd family," he added. AFP

Will cement prices in south sustain?

Prices for the southern market have witnessed a moderate rise, ₹2 per bag, in November

VAITHEESWARAN B @Chennai

CEMENT prices in southern markets have been flat in November after witnessing steep rise in price in October. The price rise sustained but the growth remained flat in November, as per dealers and company data.

Prices for the southern market have witnessed a moderate rise, ₹2 per bag, according to Nomura dealer check in No-

vember. The price remains flat after the strong price hike of ₹40-50 a bag in October.

In an earnings call with analysts, India Cements Chairman N Srinivasan said the infrastructure spending has come south and this has resulted in an increase in demand. "So, the increased demand will continue, and along with it, the present firm price regime will con-

tinue." Responding to a question regarding fall in demand in September, the company said the growth is good and normally there will be lower growth during this period. MF Farooqui, Chairman, Ramco Cements, said demand remains strong, but the prices have been under constant pressure during this September quarter. "Prices have improved in October 2023 and I hope it sustains," he said. While the price hike in October is sustaining in November, there are plans to increase the prices depending upon the market situation, the company said.

Orient Cements, present across five southern states and parts of western region, said the price in the first half of current fiscal stayed flat despite a strong demand and 15% growth. That's been a bit of a dampener, the company said. Pan India cement average prices have declined in November. Average prices fell nearly ₹13 per bag in north, ₹12 per bag in the western region and ₹7 and ₹6 a bag in the central and eastern regions, respectively. Average price has so far moderated by ₹7 per bag in November, as per Nomura Research.

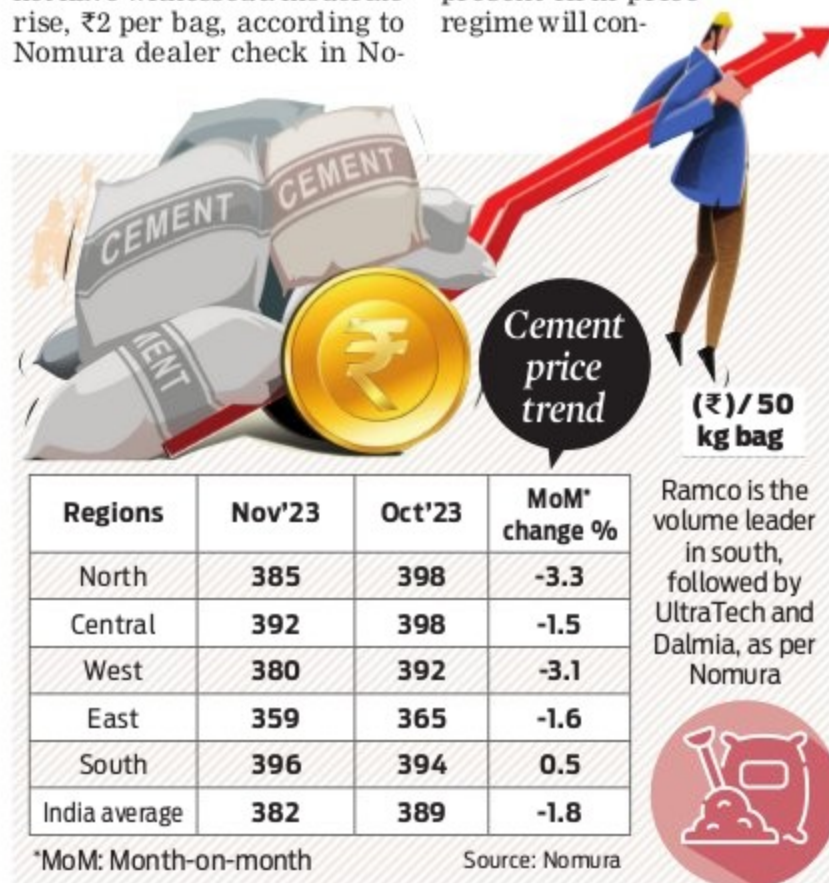
Demand uptick

Some moderation was expected by dealers in the north and

west regions after the steep price hikes of ₹40-50 per bag in October, impacted demand negatively, the report noted. As per dealers, a significant uptick in demand is expected from December post the state elections and festive season.

In south, some recovery is seen post-Dussehra led by new project launches but lower infrastructure spending by state governments due to assembly elections in December has negatively impacted demand. Some price reversal is expected by dealers as cement players start to push volume share in the second half of this fiscal. Ramco is the volume leader in the south, followed by UltraTech and Dalmia, as per Nomura. Ramco has the highest exposure to south with about 70% volumes in 2023 fiscal, especially to Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Puneet Dalmia, MD and CEO of Dalmia Cement, said like the previous quarter, weakness in south prices persisted, adding demand for the quarter is driven primarily by the southern region and with a complementing rise in low carbon cement. Responding to a question, the company said though the price rise is sustaining and the prices in the south, went up now as demand is improving.



SEBI Regulatory framework for index providers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

CAPITAL markets regulator Sebi on Saturday approved a slew of proposals, including providing flexibility to Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) in raising funds through the social stock exchange and will introduce a regulatory framework for index providers.

Apart from amending norms to strengthen the protection of investors who have pumped in money into alternative investment funds (AIFs), the regulator will put in place a new regulatory framework for facilitating Small and Medium Real Estate Investment Trusts (SM REITs).

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) took these decisions during its board meeting held in Mumbai.

The objective of SM REITs is to help expand the market significantly so that more retail investors can have fractional ownership in REIT units, Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

Sebi is open to looking at creating more such products, Buch told reporters after the board meeting.

The capital market regulator, in a statement, said flexibility will be provided for fundraising by NPOs through the social stock exchange.

Govt announces mandatory biogas blending in CNG, PNG

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

IN a bid to promote bio-fuel in the country, the government on Saturday announced the phase-wise mandatory blending of compressed bio-gas (CBG) in compressed natural gas (CNG) and piped natural gas or PNG.

In a meeting held by the National Biofuels Coordination Committee, it was decided that there will be a Central Repository Body (CRB) to monitor and implement the blending mandate.

The mandatory blending obligation would start from FY2025-26. Initially it will be kept 1% for use in automobiles and households, then it will be increased to about 5% by 2028. "In a major step towards enhancing use and adoption of CBG, the National Biofuels Coordination Committee (NBCC), chaired by the Petroleum Minister, announced on Saturday the introduction of phase-wise mandatory blending of CBG in CNG (transport) & PNG (domestic) segments of city gas distribution (CGD) sector," said the petroleum ministry in a statement.

According to the government, the objectives of the CBO (CBG blending obligation) are to stimulate demand for CBG in CGD sector; import substitution for liquefied natural gas (LNG), saving in forex,



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Petroleum ministry

promoting circular economy and to assist in achieving the target of net zero emission etc.

Petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri while talking about the initiative said the CBG blending obligation will promote production and consumption of CBG in the country. "It will encourage investment of around ₹37,500 crore and facilitate establishment of 750

CBG projects by 2028-29," said Puri. Discussions also took place for promoting production of ethanol from maize with all stakeholders especially with the Department of Agriculture and Department Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) to make it a prominent feedstock in coming years, the minister said. The government approved 1% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) indicative blending target in ATF by 2027 for domestic flights and 2% SAF blending target in 2028 for international flights.

The government has already achieved 10% ethanol blending five months before its November 2022 target. Now it has advanced its 20% ethanol blending in petrol target to 2025 from 2030. India, world's largest importers of oil and gas, wants to cut down in its fuel import bill.

IS OpenAI CRISIS A POINTER TO ALIEN INTELLIGENCE TAKING OVER?

GURBIR SINGH

THE sacking of Sam Altman, founder of OpenAI, his return to the pioneering tech company on popular demand, and then the return sacking of the board that did him in—all within a week—has let loose massive reverberations in the technology world. For those who harboured fears about artificial intelligence (AI), and those who did not know what AI is all about, it was a week of learning.

Last week, on Friday, 17 November, the board of the 2015 start-up, today the most influential company in the fledgling AI industry, fired Sam Altman along with co-founder Greg Brockman on a Google Meet call.

By Monday, Microsoft, a shareholder in OpenAI having pumped in \$13 billion, said Altman and Brockman would join Microsoft to run a new AI research group. To queer the pitch, over 500 employees of the startup threatened in an open letter to quit and join Altman at Microsoft if Altman was not brought back.

In an ironical twist, Sam Altman on Wednesday returned to lead OpenAI. The first thing he did was sack the Board that had fired him the previous week. The only survivor on the Board was Adam D'Angelo, CEO of Quora.

Project Q* warning

It has the script of a Hollywood blockbuster. The only problem is AI is now at everyone's doorstep.

The increasing use of AI to manufacture deep fakes on social media has the Indian government scrambling to develop a regulatory framework to root out the problem.

Celebrities like Shahrukh Khan and Virat Kohli are pointing to their morphed images and voices on social media being used to support some betting apps. Prime Minister Modi chose to raise the issue of misuse of AI on Wednesday at the G20 leaders' virtual summit, calling for global action on the subject.

Though things are still unravelling at OpenAI, the corporate battle there holds the key to many of the questions.

OpenAI, as many know, is an artificial intelligence research laboratory building and devel-

oping advanced language models. Among its most successful product, and one which made the startup and Sam Altman a household name, is ChatGPT—an AI assistant that can write your CV, and produce a presentation on nuclear physics.

One of the triggers of the Altman coup was a letter written by staffers to the board that warned against the commercial launch of an artificial intelligence discovery that they



SOURYADIP SINHA

said could threaten humanity. It was about Project Q* (pronounced Q-Star), seen as a breakthrough in what is called artificial general intelligence (AGI). It is loosely defined as an autonomous computing system using math that surpasses humans in most economically valuable tasks.

Analysts say at the current level AI has the capability to write and translate language by statistically predicting the next word; but answers to the same question can vary widely. However, when you graduate to math—where there is only one right answer—it implies AI would have greater reasoning capabilities resembling human intelligence. This was red-flagged as a potential danger.

At a general level, there have been fears that AI could get out hand and pose a danger to the human race. How true are

these concerns? Quite recently in May 2023 a nonprofit research and advocacy organization, Center for AI Safety, said: "The risk of extinction from A.I. should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks, such as pandemics and nuclear war." It was taken seriously as it was signed by many tech godfathers.

Sample this: tasked with reserving a table at a popular restaurant, AI shuts down mobile phone networks and traffic lights in order to prevent others from getting the table! It is efficient at achieving goals, but without the moral values of its creators.

Philosophical crisis

But this is carrying the evidence too far. In an article republished by the Scientific American recently, the authors say: "... there is an existential danger inherent in using AI, but that risk is existential in the philosophical rather than apocalyptic sense." The danger rather is "it can degrade abilities and experiences that people consider essential to being human."

When daily judgments—from what loan to opt for and which TV programme to watch in leisure time—is farmed out to AI algorithms—then people will slowly lose the capacity to take decisions. That's the biggest fear.

ChatGPT's writing abilities for instance has ended the need to write original assignments by say Phd students or sales executive working on a marketing plan. In effect, it is eliminating our ability to think critically. AI also has the frightening ability to produce deep-fake videos and audios. Cybercriminals can use AI voice cloning for high-tech heists and bank scams.

But is the lurking danger big enough to equate it to the level of a Covid pandemic or a nuclear war? Probably not. Critical analysts say existing AI applications, including the coming Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), are still at the level of executing specific tasks rather than able to make human-like judgments.

Yet the possibilities are scary. We don't know where Project Q* can lead to. It is good someone is blowing the whistle; and even corporate giants are worried about producing 'intelligence' bigger than themselves.

EXPRESS READ

Sebi asks AIFs to dematerialise units

NEW DELHI: To facilitate ease of compliance and strengthen investor protection in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), Sebi on Saturday said all the fresh investments made by an AIF after September 2024 should be held in demat form. Approving amendment to AIF rules, Sebi said that some exceptions have been provided. Additionally, Sebi said that the mandate for the appointment of custodians should be extended to all AIFs. PTI

ED searches realty firm DLF premises

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has searched the premises of realty major DLF in Gurugram as part of a money laundering investigation against real estate firm Supertech and its promoters, official sources said on Saturday. DLF, in a stock market filing, said "a team of officials from the ED visited our premises seeking information with respect to investigation being conducted in the matter of Supertech." PTI



Reserve Bank of India plays a pivotal role in India's rapid economic growth: Subhrakant Panda

Bhubaneswar: Subhrakant Panda, President, FICCI and Managing Director, IMFA spoke at the inaugural session of FIBAC 2023 which is the flagship event of the banking sector and is jointly organised by FICCI & the Indian Banks' Association annually in Mumbai. The event was graced by Shri Shaktikanta Das, RBI Governor and other dignitaries like Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI and Amitabh Chaudhry, MD, Axis Bank among others. Mr Panda said, "The RBI has played a key role in the evolution of the banking sector in India, and its measured actions have strengthened banks which are well positioned to support India's rapid economic growth." In his remarks, Shri Das said RBI will maintain an unerring focus on controlling inflation even as it takes into account various external factors.

Business & Beyond

MSETCL wins Atal Bihari Vajpayee National Awareness Campaign Special award

Mumbai, November 18:- The Public Relations department of the Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company (MSETCL) had bagged three national level awards instituted by the Public Relations Society of India. This was announced by PRSI. The awards include 'Best social media and PR', 'Branding' and 'Best Film' (English). The department also bagged Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee National Awareness Campaign award. The Chairman and Managing Director of the Mahatransco Dr. Sanjeev Kumar (IAS) congratulated the PR department on its achievement. The Public Relations Society of India is an institute working at national and international level in various arenas. It also has its wings in various states of India along with various branches in the United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka and other nations. The awards will be bestowed upon to MSETCL at the inaugural ceremony of the international Public Relations festival to be held between 25 to 27th of November at the Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar international convention centre in New Delhi.



Paradip Port Western Dock development begins with Bhoomi Puja by Naveen Jindal

Chairman of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), Shri Naveen Jindal, performed Bhoomi Puja today to commence construction work for the Western Dock of Paradip Port. Chairman of Paradip Port Shri PL Haranadh, IRTS, and other senior officials of the port were present on the occasion. Last year, a JSP-led consortium won the bid to build a 25-million-tonne (MT) capacity dry bulk cargo terminal at the western dock of Paradip Port. A special purpose vehicle, Jindal Paradip Port Limited (JPPL), has been formed by the leading steel major Jindal Steel & Power and Jindal Port Private for this project. The foundation stone for the development of Western Dock was laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 17, 2023, during the third edition of the Global Maritime Summit 2023 held in Mumbai.



Power Sector Skill Council and TPDDL sign MoU

Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) & Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for facilitating and working together for Skilling & Learning Development initiatives for distribution sector. MoU was signed by Dr. V.K. Singh, Chief Executive Officer, and Shri Praveen Agrawal, Chief HR, (TPDDL) on 21st November 2023 in the presence of senior officials of both the organizations.

FM rejects Kerala's fund neglect claims

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday dismissed allegations by the Kerala government of negligence in fund allocation and claimed the central government promptly sends required funds to the people of the southern state without any delay.

Responding to the allegations, she pointed fingers at the state government, alleging that it was due to the state's failure to meet the necessary criteria.

Criticising ruling CPI(M)-led alliance, which has announced a protest in New Delhi in January against the alleged neglect by the central government, the minister claimed the highest amount of Finance Commission Grants has been released to Kerala from 2009-10 to 2023-24 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



NEW DELHI: West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh and Abhinav Shaw won the 10m air rifle mixed team title, while Sarabjot Singh and Palak, representing Haryana, took home the mixed team air pistol gold in the National Shooting Championships on Saturday. Mehuli and Shaw emerged 16-6 winners over the Karnataka pair of Dairius Saurastri and Tilottama Sen.

After pocketing the Grand Swiss title, Chennai girl Vaishali is mere points away from becoming the third Indian woman to get the title of GM. **Gomesh S** tracks her journey...

SHORTLY after winning the FIDE Grand Swiss event, R Vaishali had just arrived in Chennai. During an event at MOP Vaishnav College, her alma mater, where she being facilitated by the legendary Viswanathan Anand, she was getting all the attention from her college mates and the media.

Despite not having a slept and looking visibly tired, Vaishali was obliging all requests for autographs, selfies and interviews. It was justified. She had secured a place in the Candidates next year, becoming the third Indian to do so this year alone. She was also on the cusp of becoming a GM.

Getting media attention is nothing new to Vaishali. Being the elder sister of R Praggnanandhaa — one of the chess prodigies of his generation — she had always been flooded with queries about his laurels throughout her life. But now, the attention and questions were all about her and her achievements.

Unsurprisingly, she was thrilled about being in the limelight. Ask her if it added more pressure, especially with the GM title and Candidates looming over her, she had an immediate reply. "I don't feel the pressure. I am just enjoying the attention actually, maybe it will come in future," she said with a smile.

From the outset, it is the quiet unassuming personality that strikes you. But as is often the case, there is more to Vishali than just that. She beat Magnus Carlsen at the age of 12, Woman International Master at 15, Woman Grandmaster at 17, International Master at 20, and has won Chess Olympiad and Asian Games medals in the last couple of years. Like Praggnanandhaa, she too has been working with RB Ramesh from a very young age, who says that there are many similarities between the siblings. "You can say initially, they both had a similar style and it evolved slightly in different directions. Both are very hard working. They don't have much interest beyond chess and I think many

Ready to script own destiny



other children of their age, so they are very committed and dedicated to chess. Both spend a lot of hours on a daily basis working on chess, both didn't go to school from a young age practicing almost single-mindedly on chess," says the coach.

If you had any doubts on the time she puts in for the sport, ask Vaishali what was the last movie she watched, she would think for a long time and say "I don't even remember." For someone who has been playing the sport forever, Vaishali used to be a lot more emotional with her results in the past. Defeats could hurt her so much that she would be worrying about the results. As a result, she would curtail her natural inhibitions, talents. "When you start playing artificial chess, you won't be happy doing that, but you're doing it with the thinking that it will help you cut down the losses, but you kind of become a different player," says Ramesh.

However, things have changed and for the better. Despite not having a smooth run in the first half of 2023, Vaishali has turned it around in the last few months. Ramesh believes she is playing with freedom and aggression and is more calculative of her risks, trusting her instincts. Her confidence has seen a significant

rise in the last year or so. And the one thing that has helped her in that aspect is the work she has put in at the gym.

Around the Chess Olympiad last year, Vaishali started hitting the gym. At that point, she had realised that her mistakes often happen after playing for several hours. She would be playing well and suddenly would not be able to focus. It has been over a year, and Vaishali is seeing the difference when she is playing. Ramesh feels there is scope for more improvement. "This has been something I insist on with all the students but usually they don't understand its significance. Generally, it builds your stamina, but I still think there is more scope for her to get physical. She does get tired towards the end of the tournament. She doesn't have the same energy levels. Like even in the FIDE Grand Swiss, had she won the last round, she would have become a Grandmaster. She came close, but she didn't finish. She let the opponent escape. So, the stamina level is still not at the optimum level," he says while acknowledging the difficulties in doing so when the siblings continuously travel for tournaments.

The other factor that has helped the siblings is how much

they have leaned on each other along the way. As the teenage brother's stature grew exponentially over the past few years, he has, in some ways, helped Vaishali, feels Ramesh. "She still wants someone to guide her and help her during tournaments. But in Prag's case, he's very independent, he can decide what to play... all that he can do himself. She is still to some extent largely dependent, mostly she's leaning on Prag because they both travel to some tournaments together. Prag helps her in choosing openings and getting her help in preparation," he says.

After the event at her college, Vaishali had to stay back and do a series of interactions with the media where she was patiently giving time to every reporter. To be in the limelight and having all the attention could sometimes be overwhelming, but not in her case. Her coach feels it will only help her rather than adding extra pressure. "I think she was under more pressure earlier. I would say she feels she is getting what she has been deserving all along. It's like now she's being acknowledged of her own, right? Something like that. So, it's not putting pressure. Right now, she just completed two good tournaments and she's more optimistic than under pressure," he says.

At the moment, her focus is on the GM title, something she has dreamt about since she can remember. She wants to get it out of the way in the coming month and focus on the Candidates. "From the day I started playing chess, becoming a GM has been my dream. I have been playing chess for 15 years. Whatever tournaments I play, making a GM has always been my goal. Now, I am just a few points away from the title. I want to complete it soon," she said with resolve.

Having ticked a lot of boxes, that day should not be too far away. A GM title — only the third Indian woman to achieve it — and a chance to make a name for herself at the Candidates awaits Vaishali. And when the moment comes, you'd know she will be ready for it.

IPL: BIG SHIFT ON THE CARDS

The Indian Premier League (IPL) is all set for one of the biggest player trades in history, with Hardik Pandya going back to Mumbai Indians from Gujarat Titans. Here is a comprehensive look at the situation as the clock ticks down on the final day of trades.

WAIT, ISN'T HE LIKE THE CAPTAIN?

Yeah. The captain of the franchise that delivered them an IPL title at the first time of asking. He also took the franchise to another final in 2023 where they lost to Chennai Super Kings.

ARE ANY PLAYERS GOING OTHER WAY?

Barring any 11th-hour shenanigans, this is a cash-only deal. It's reported that Mumbai are going to give ₹15 cr for Pandya's services. There's also going to be some sort of transfer fee going to Gujarat.

WHY IS THIS TRANSFER HAPPENING?

There were some industry-wide rumours of this being a possibility. Over the last few days, it's caught fire and it's believed that this story has legs. As to why, nobody really knows why. Maybe Mumbai see him as a long-term captain and have conveyed the same to Pandya. Maybe Pandya and his current employers have had a falling out of sorts. As it stands, both Mumbai and Gujarat are yet to release any statements on the state of play.

IT'S THAT SIMPLE, EH?

The one spanner in the works is Mumbai's current purse. They have ₹5 lakh. So they will need to find a substantial amount of cash to afford Pandya. There are some reports doing the rounds that may let go of the likes of Jofra Archer and Cameron Green.



IF IT ALL GOES THROUGH, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE MUMBAI?

The one major talking point is where does that leave Rohit Sharma. Will he play purely as a batter? Will he remain as captain or will he himself be let go? Lots of questions remain.

2022

Hardik Pandya led Gujarat to the title in 2022

2015

Mumbai had signed Pandya as an uncapped player in 2015.

4 Pandya had won four titles with Mumbai before he was let go before the big auction in 2022.

November 26, 4.00 PM — Deadline

India look to extend lead

SURYAKUMAR YADAV & CO CAN MULTIPLY THEIR LEAD IN THE SERIES WITH ANOTHER WIN IN THE SECOND T20I AGAINST AUSTRALIA. A LOOK...

Will the World Cup winners come back?

Travis Head and Adam Zampa, two of Australia's most impressive performers at the World Cup, were given a watching brief for the first T20I. Chances are at least one of them will be back for the game.

Chance for Yashvi to make claim for top spot

If, as expected, Rohit Sharma decides to walk away from the format, they have a ready-made replacement in Yashasvi Jaiswal. The young southpaw is only nine matches old but has a strike rate of 166 at an average of 36. In the first game, he had made an eight-ball 21.



7.00 PM | Thiruvananthapuram
Live on Jio Cinema/Sports 18

Free of rain

Even if the ground was battered with rain over the last few days, Sunday is expected to be free of inclement weather.



SatChi one step away from title

AGENCIES @ Shenzhen

THE Indian duo of Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty dished out another attacking masterclass to stand one step away from their second BWF Super 750 title after progressing to the men's doubles final at the China Masters on Saturday.

The former World No 1 Indian pair, who had won their first BWF World Super 750 title at the French Open last year, notched up a 21-15, 22-20 win over the newly-formed Chinese duo of He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in an explosive semi-final that lasted 50 minutes.

The top seeds will face another Chinese pair in the summit clash on Sunday.

The match saw some exciting rallies as both the pairs played at a frenetic pace but it was the Indians who had more sting in their attack as they penetrated the defence of their opposition. The world number 50 pair of He and Ren, who had a title-winning run last week at the Japan Masters, did show their prowess, especially in the second game but Satwik and Chirag displayed great mental fortitude to close the issue in straight games. Playing the Chinese pair for the first time, Satwik and Chirag produced another attacking game, their electric pace making life difficult for their opposition.

Olympics: Ad-hoc panel lays out selection process

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

INDIA's wrestling contingent for the 2024 Games will be finalised through a two-step selection process, where the grapplers who have earned the quota places for the country, will compete against a challenger in June and the winner will represent India in the quadrennial showpiece. So far only Antim Panghal, the world championships bronze medalist in 53kg category, has earned a quota place.

Antim could end up competing against Vinesh Phogat if the 2018 Asian Games gold medalist emerges a "challenger", which will be determined on May 31. The IOA constituted ad-hoc committee stated in a statement on Saturday that all the challengers will be determined on May 31 and the "wres-

tle-off" between the "Challenger" and Olympic quota winner will take place on June 1.

The ad-hoc committee, led by Bhopender Singh Bajwa, said in a statement that the "comprehensive selection policy" for the 2024 Paris Olympics will ensure a "fair and transparent process in determining the athletes who will represent India on the global stage".

Antim, the two-time under-20 world champion, has been exempted from appearing in the trials in February to select the team for the two Olympic qualifying events in Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. The other members of the Indian contingent for the two Olympic qualifying events will be selected on the basis of trials, to be conducted in all 30 Olympic and non-Olympic categories, from February 27-29.



Liverpool end City's streak

AGENCIES @ Manchester

LIVERPOOL snapped Manchester City's 23-match winning run at the Etihad as a clash between the Premier League's top two ended 1-1 on Saturday. Trent Alexander-Arnold's fine strike 10 minutes from time salvaged a point for the visitors after Erling Haaland's 50th Premier League goal put City in front.

A share of the spoils means there remains just one point between the sides.

Later, Chelsea's climb back to the upper echelons of the table came crashing down as they suffered a 4-1 loss at Newcastle. Raheem Sterling had cancelled out Alexander Isak opener but the Magpies hit back with three unanswered second-half goals in front of a rocking St. James' thanks to Jameel Lascelles, Joelinton and Anthony Gordon. To make matters worse, Chelsea had Reece James sent



Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold celebrates after scoring against Man City. Earlier, City's Erling Haaland had scored to become quickest to reach 50 PL goals | AP

off for a second yellow.

Results: Man City 1-1 Liverpool, Sheffield 1-3 Bournemouth, Nottingham Forest 2-3 Brighton, Burnley 1-2 West Ham, Luton 2-1 Crystal Palace, Newcastle 4-1 Chelsea.

Barcelona held

Madrid: Barcelona slipped up in a 1-1 draw at Rayo Vallecano on Saturday in La Liga, contin-

uing a worrying run of underwhelming performances.

Unai Lopez drove Rayo ahead from long range in the first half but Barca levelled through Florian Lejeune's own goal in the 82nd minute. The draw adds to the doubts around Barcelona, who have not been at their best for several weeks.

Brief scores

Group A: Kerala: 231 in 49.1 ovs (S Babay 104, S Samson 55; M Avasthi 4/24) **lost** to Mumbai (revised target under VJD method: 159 in 30 ovs); 161/2 in 24.2 ovs (A Raghuvanshi 57) by 8 wickets. **Group B:** Manipur: 113 in 45.4 ovs (Johnson 51 n.o.; A Karmewar 4/18) **lost** to Vidarbha: 115/2 in 16.5 ovs (A Mokhadde 49) by 8 wickets. **Group C:** Mizoram: 128 in 42.1 ovs (S Sharma 4/25) **lost** to Delhi 132/2 in 16.5 ovs (H Singh 52 n.o.) by 8 wickets. Bihar: 112 (Pratap 46 n.o.; H Patel 4/49) **lost** to Haryana: 117/0 in 19.1 ovs (Y Singh 50 n.o., A Kumar 61 n.o.) by 10 wickets. **Group D:** Gujarat: 128 in 29 ovs (D Chahar 6/41) **lost** to Rajasthan 129/5 in 28.4 ovs (D Hooda 76 n.o.; A Nagwaswalla 3/31) by 5 wickets. HP 276 in 50 ovs (PS Chopra 61) **lost** to UP 277/3 in 37 ovs (Swastik 117) by 7 wickets. **Group E:** Bengal: 314/8 in 50 ovs (A Easwaran 141) **bt** Baroda 219 in 44.2 ovs (S Barwat 59) by 95 runs. TN 296/8 in 50 ovs (B Sai Sudharsan 125) **bt** Goa 263 in 50 ovs (KV Siddharth 61; S Warrier 4/20).

NATIONAL HOCKEY MEET

TN record thrilling win over UP in quarters

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

KARNATAKA, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Punjab emerged victorious in their respective quarterfinals to advance to the semifinals of the 13th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship 2023 here. Karnataka and Punjab were dominant in their wins, while Haryana went through a tense penalty shootout to make it to the top four. For the locals, Tamil Nadu's thrilling comeback victory against UP was the highlight of the day.

In the first half, UP made most of their chances via penalty corners to get a two-goal lead. Under pressure, Tamil Nadu came back swinging in the second half with J Kavir



Action from the match between Punjab & Manipur in Chennai | ASHWIN PRASATH

Kishore (33rd minute) scoring the first goal. Captain J Joshua Benedict Wesely's two late goals (52 and 59) secured the semifinal spot against Harya-

na. "Even in the last few minutes, we were still in the match. We told players to remain calm and we will get our chances. I had a belief in the boys that

they would create the opportunities at the last minute," Tamil Nadu coaching duo T Charles Dixon and N Muthukumar said. "It has been a very interesting tournament because international players are playing for their state teams. Youngsters are getting to play with them and now they will know how to develop from their side and understand how the hockey is played at that level. We hope to see a lot of players coming up from Tamil Nadu. The hockey fever that started with the Asian Champions Trophy is going on and it will continue for a long. We will learn a lot from this," the duo added.

Results: Karnataka bt Jharkhand 4-1; Tamil Nadu bt Uttar Pradesh 3-2; Haryana bt Odisha 2-2 (3-2 SO); Punjab bt Manipur 4-2.

EXPRESS READ

Chennaiyin earn a point against East Bengal

CHENNAI: East Bengal FC settled for a gripping 1-1 draw against Chennaiyin FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Saturday. Ayush Adhikari scored an own goal in the 29th minute to hand East Bengal the lead. Substitute Ninhoinganba Meetei found the equaliser in the 86th minute to earn a point for the hosts. After seven games, Chennaiyin are seventh with as many points, two ahead of Bengaluru FC. They next face Kerala Blasters on Wednesday.

F1: Verstappen takes pole for Abu Dhabi GP

ABU DHABI: Max Verstappen took pole position for the season-ending Abu Grand Prix on Saturday and will look to finish a dominant year with a 19th win. Victory on Sunday would take the Red Bull driver onto 54 career wins. The three-time F1 champion's 12th pole of the season took him to 32 overall. He starts the race ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in second place and McLaren's Oscar Piastri in third.

Sinner beats Djokovic in Davis Cup semis

MALAGA: Jannik Sinner handed Novak Djokovic a rare singles loss in the Davis Cup to restore parity for Italy in the semifinals. After Miomir Kecmanovic had given Serbia the lead against Lorenzo Musetti, Djokovic, whose last singles loss came in 2011, went down in the deciding set to lose 6-2, 2-6, 7-5. Kecmanovic had won 6-7 (7), 6-2, 6-1 over Musetti, who was preferred to Matteo Arnaldi.

